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De Kock dazzles in SA's thumping win

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NEARBY

State Cabinet clears Bill on internal quota

BELAGAVI
The Cabinet on Thursday cleared The Karnataka Scheduled Castes (Sub-classification) Bill 2025, a proposed legislation for internal reservation among the 101 Scheduled Castes in the State. » PAGE 9

Minimum temp. likely to hover around 15°C

BENGALURU
The IMD has forecast that the minimum temperature in Bengaluru is likely to be between 15 and 17 degrees Celsius for the next five days.

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EC extends deadline for SIR in five States, one U.T.

T.N., Gujarat, M.P., Chhattisgarh, U.P., and the Andaman and Nicobar Islands given extension; Kerala got one already; no change in schedule for Bengal, Goa, Puducherry, Lakshadweep, and Rajasthan

Sreeparna Chakrabarty
NEW DELHI

The Election Commission has extended the schedule of the ongoing special intensive revision (SIR) of electoral rolls in five States and one Union Territory: Tamil Nadu, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Uttar Pradesh, and the Andaman and Nicobar Islands. The extension was announced on Thursday, the earlier deadline to submit enumeration forms.

The duration of the extension differs in these States and the U.T., ranging from three days to a fortnight, with all draft electoral rolls set to be published by the end of the year. Another set of States – West Bengal, Goa, Puducherry, Lakshadweep, and Rajasthan – has not been granted any extension, while the schedule in Kerala was extended earlier.

A senior EC official told *The Hindu* that extensions have been given to all States whose Chief Electoral Officers (CEOs) had sought it. Interestingly, EC data claims that 99% to 100% of enumeration forms have already been submitted and digitised in most of these States.

Changing deadlines

The initial EC order announcing the SIR in 12 States and U.T.s set December 4 as the deadline for voters to submit their enumeration forms. Last week, the EC extended the enumeration period by a week, to December 11, for all 12 States and U.T.s, with draft electoral rolls to be published on December 16.

On the last day, however, the EC announced a further extension. The enumeration period for T.N. and Gujarat has now been extended till December 14 and the draft rolls will be published on December 19. For M.P., Chhattisgarh, and the Andaman and Nicobar Islands, the enumeration deadline has been extended till December 18 and the draft electoral list will be published on December 23.

U.P. has been given the longest extension, till December 26 for the enumeration period, with the draft rolls now set to be published on December 31.

CONTINUED ON » PAGE 12

Revised schedule

The SIR schedule has been extended for T.N., Gujarat, M.P., Chhattisgarh, U.P., and the Andaman and Nicobar Islands

- Previous enumeration deadline: **Dec. 11**
- Previous date for publication of draft rolls: **Dec. 16**

New dates	Enumeration period (till)	Publication of draft rolls
T.N., Gujarat	Dec. 14	Dec. 19
Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh and the Andaman and Nicobar Islands	Dec. 18	Dec. 23
Uttar Pradesh	Dec. 26	Dec. 31

18 killed, 3 missing as truck falls into gorge in Arunachal

The Hindu Bureau
GUWAHATI

Eighteen people were killed and three were reported missing after a truck carrying 22 workers from Assam's Tinsukia district fell into a 200-metre gorge in Arunachal Pradesh's Anjaw district, the Guwahati-based Defence spokesperson Lt. Col. Mahendra Rawat said on Thursday.

Lt. Col. Rawat said the Army launched a search-and-rescue operation on Thursday, based on an alert received on Wednesday night about a vehicle accident along the Hayuliang-Chaglagam Road.

"Preliminary inputs from the lone survivor, who managed to reach a General Reserve Engineer Force (GREF) camp at Chipra from the accident site, suggest that the truck with 22 workers from Tinsukia fell off a cliff on Monday night," he said.

Fatal plunge: The truck fell into a 200-m gorge on Monday night. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Rescue teams have spotted 18 bodies so far after four hours of search. Apart from an Army team, which includes doctors, personnel from GREF, local police, and the National Disaster Response Force have been engaged in the rescue operation.

CONTINUED ON » PAGE 12

Cabinet rider for big ticket events at Chinnaswamy

The Hindu Bureau
BELAGAVI

In what puts a question mark on IPL matches being played in Bengaluru in the next season, the State government on Thursday decided to allow big ticket cricket events at M. Chinnaswamy Stadium only after the Karnataka State Cricket Association (KSCA) complies with safety guidelines laid down by the John Michael Cunha Commission of Inquiry report on the stampede on June 4.

The decision came at the Cabinet, which discussed the issue of allowing big events at the stadium. Recently, the newly-elected office-bearers of the KSCA, led by former cricketer and KSCA president B.K. Venkatesh Prasad, called on Chief Minister Siddaramaiah.

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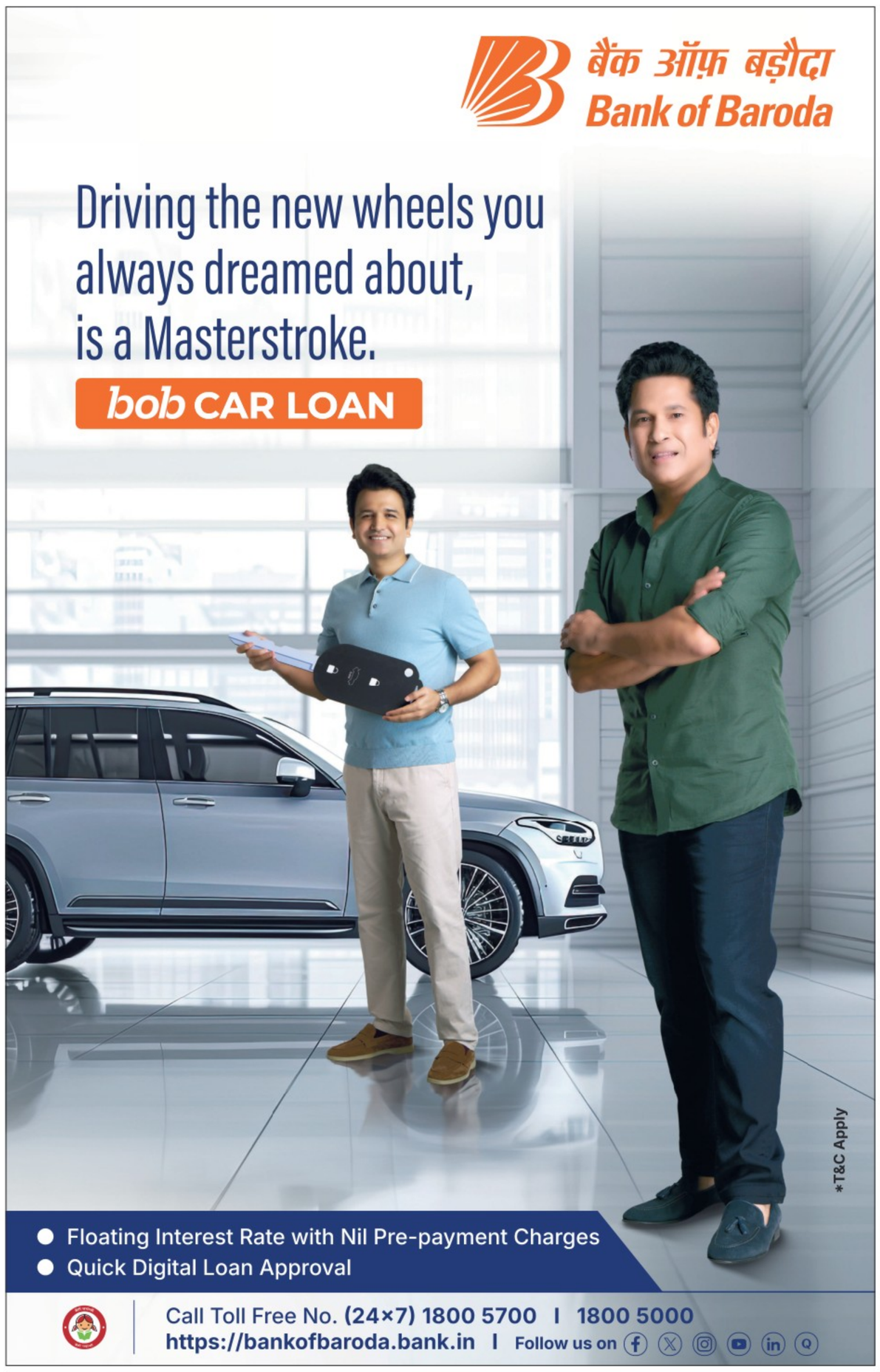

ANI, AFP

Hardik – the three-in-one cricketer who delivers more often than not

His challenge over the next three months will be to steer clear of the spectre of injuries that has been relentlessly chasing him; the all-rounder will no longer don the white flannels, a reality he has come to terms with, but the 32-year-old remains crucial to India's white-ball ecosystem

R. Kaushik

It's a little before 8 p.m. on a nippy Tuesday night, a deafening sound of silence enveloped Cuttack's Barabati Stadium. Having done the hard yards, Tilak Varma has just been dismissed to an excellent catch at fine-leg by Marco Jansen. It's the strapping left-arm quick's third catch of the evening, Lungi Ngidi's third wicket of the contest.

At 78 for four midway through the 12th over, India's innings is going nowhere. The run rate is in the 6s, courtesy South Africa's discipline and a tacky surface where stroke-making is fraught with danger. India's top-four has all fallen attempting big shots, its efforts negated by both bounce and the ball sitting in the pitch. There is a sense of apprehension, if not anxiety, among the 45,000 predominantly pro-India audience in the first of five Twenty20 Internationals.

The silence lasts only till a lithe, athletic figure strides out, all intent and purpose. Hardik Pandya is playing his first international game in two and a half months but from the time he takes guard, one feels he has never been away.

Such is the strength India can summon in white-ball cricket that Hardik wasn't missed in the time he was away from the game, recovering from a quadricep injury that kept him out of the T20 Asia Cup final against Pakistan and beyond. Make that 'wasn't almost missed.' How can one not miss an all-rounder of his calibre, a rare commodity in Indian cricket who bowls in the 140s and who can bat in different gears, depending on the situation? How can one not miss one of the great influencers of the modern limited-overs game, a powerhouse with the bat but also capable of making inroads with the ball, banking on the immense belief that he can use his short ball as a veritable weapon?

How can one not miss a T20I batter who fuses an average in the late 20s with a strike-rate in the early 140s, who smacks a six every 12 deliveries or so? How can one not miss a bowler who can take the new ball, bowl in the middle overs or deliver at the death, who boasts nearly 100 wickets and is agile, athletic and committed in the field? How can one not miss Hardik Pandya?

Back to the Barabati. As Hardik emerged from the dugout, the crowd found its voice. It will be a stretch to say that it saw the Hardik blitzkrieg coming, but they had faith in the 32-year-old, a faith that eventually proved well justified.

More than them, though, Hardik had faith in himself. Immense self-belief. It's been his calling card, his greatest ally and sometimes his worst enemy. Hardik is at that stage of his career where he is driven by inner expectations, by his own standards, not so much by what others want of him. Various responsibilities, including the captaincy of the T20I side, have passed him by, but instead of moping and cursing his luck and bemoaning the litany of injuries that have stymied his development as a Test all-rounder, he has chosen to sport a sunny outlook marked by positivity and the desire to deliver for the team.

A nonchalant single first ball from Lungi Ngidi got the juices flowing. His second ball, from left-arm spinner Keshav Maharaj, disappeared over wide long-on as he opened his broad shoulders and deposited the ball over the fence. It was a beautifully executed stroke, all timing and grace with power not even an afterthought. Hardik can do that, you know. He has done it a million times previously, across formats. By the end of the first T20I, he boasted 188 sixes in 226 outings for the country, 100 of them in the 20-over version alone.

The next ball disappeared for another six, longer and more dramatic than the previous one. At the time of the bat making contact with the ball, Hardik's eyes were on Maharaj, not the ball. He had sized up the little white orb in the air, got into perfect position to launch it straighter; the eyes on the bowler sent out a chilling message: 'I am here, and I mean business.'

For the next 40 minutes or so, Hardik bossed the exchanges. He made batting look ridiculously easy on a demanding pitch. It was as if while the rest were confronted with a minefield, he was taking guard on the most placid of decks, where he could hit through the line with impunity and where the fielders were mere serfs positioned to fetch the ball from the boundary and relay it to the hapless bowler.

A promising Test career was nipped in the bud because his athletic-looking but fragile body couldn't shoulder the burden of responsibility that comes with the tag of a genuine all-rounder

Hardik's latest injury-fuelled absence with minimal damage, though they did surrender the ODI series in Australia 1-2. He would have been handy in Perth and Adelaide, where the first two games were held, because of his propensity to bowl a deceptively heavy ball and because he is an expert at horizontal-bat strokes. But that's how the cookie crumbles and over the years, India have learnt not to stress too much over Hardik's unavailability because he has given them adequate practice at playing without him.

Injury issues

A promising Test career was nipped in the bud because his athletic-looking but fragile body couldn't shoulder the burden of responsibility that comes with the tag of a genuine all-rounder. After token attempts at reviving his five-day fortunes, Hardik heeded the obvious and decided to stay away from the red-ball game. To some, it might appear as if he took the easy way out, opting not to put in the hard labour required to stay relevant in the longest iteration. Hardik will counter that he chose prudence and logic, that no amount of core strengthening could have prevented the ugly shadow of injuries from eclipsing his path.

While there is no denying the value a fully fit Hardik would have given the Test side, there's no point trying to get on board a ship that has long sailed. He will no longer don the white flannels, a reality he has come to terms with, but he remains crucial to India's white-ball ecosystem, a landscape where his three-dimensional presence lends the cutting edge that can be the game-changer.

Hardik's challenge over the next three months will be to steer clear of the spectre of injuries that has been relentlessly chasing him. He needs to be managed carefully, which means perhaps keeping him away from the three ODIs against New Zealand in January and getting him to play only the remaining T20Is of this five-match series against South Africa and five further outings against the Kiwis next month before the T20 World Cup begins in early February.

It was his dismissal of Heinrich Klaasen, with South Africa needing 26 off 24 deliveries, six wickets standing, that turned the final of the last World Cup upside down in Bridgetown last year. A second heartbreak loomed in seven months for Rohit Sharma's men when Hardik threw them a lifeline through a slower delivery that the marauding Klaasen could only nick through to Rishabh Pant. India were suddenly all over the Proteas like a bad rash, Jasprit Bumrah and Arshdeep Singh expertly closing out all escape routes and Hardik delivering the *coup de grace* in the final over with the scalps of Miller (to a sensational catch by Suryakumar Yadav running around at long-off) and Kagiso Rabada.

Hardik was Rohit's deputy at the World Cup and would have realistically expected to don the captain's imaginary armband when the inspirational skipper retired after hoisting the trophy. But ostensibly because of his numerous dalliances with injuries, Hardik lost out, the crown instead placed on Suryakumar's head. It must have been a bitter pill to swallow for the man who loves to live life king-size, but he gritted his teeth, kept his mouth firmly shut and decided to let his cricket do the talking.

Nowhere was that more evident than at the 50-over Champions Trophy in Dubai in February-March, when unbeaten India scythed through the draw to add a second ICC title to their cabinet in seven and a half months.

Either side of the haunting meltdown in the final of the 50-over World Cup in November 2023, India won 23 matches in three ICC tournaments, though it is the one that got away that will always rankle. On somewhat dodgy tracks at the Dubai International Cricket Stadium where India lost all five tosses and were forced to chase four times, Hardik came to the party thrice on the bounce.

With a run-a-ball 45 against New Zealand in the league stage, Hardik gave himself and his bowling colleagues enough to defend and took the first wicket in the Kiwi chase to set up a 44-run victory. In the semifinal against Australia, with the match in the balance, he smacked three giant sixes, including two off successive deliveries from leggie Adam Zampa, to settle the issue, and conjured 18 off 18 in the final against the Kiwis. His strike-rate ranged between 100 and 117, not special but just what was needed under the circumstances. It was Hardik at his calculating best, choosing the bowlers to target, the areas to clear.

Hardik's presence allows the think-tank the luxury of playing an additional specialist resource, depending on what the perceived need is. He is three cricketers rolled in one, and a leader in his own right even if he is not the captain or the vice-captain. His colleagues recognise his value but more importantly, Hardik knows what he must do. For him, that's what matters the most.

Blazing away

By the time the curtain came down on the Indian innings, Hardik had breezed to 59 off 28, six fours and four gigantic sixes. Touch and power competed for effect and efficiency. Tottering and stumbling along until he arrived in a blaze of boundaries, India raced away to 175 for six when they ran out of time.

The electric right-hander contributed 60.82% of the runs accrued when he was at the crease while facing 56% of the deliveries left in the innings. South Africa, all of South Africa, together bested Hardik by 15 runs, but they fell short of India's total by 101. Just for good measure, Hardik picked up the scalp of the dangerous David Miller with his first ball back. Is there anything this man from Choryasi in Gujarat can't do?

India tided over

THE GIST

- Hardik is at that stage of his career where he is driven by inner expectations, by his own standards, not so much by what others want of him
- Hardik would have realistically expected to don the T20 captain's imaginary armband when Rohit retired after winning the World Cup. But ostensibly because of his numerous dalliances with injuries, Hardik lost out
- Hardik's presence allows the think-tank the luxury of playing an additional specialist resource, depending on what the perceived need is

Colleges open admissions earlier than usual

Some say that early start is meant to streamline their admissions cycle, while others point out that the move is driven by competition

Rishita Khanna
BENGALURU

To attract a larger pool of applicants, many private and autonomous colleges in Bengaluru have opened admissions for their undergraduate programmes months ahead of the usual schedule.

Institutions that typically begin the process only in late January and some even after February, have already started accepting applications for degree courses this year.

While a few colleges said the early start was meant to streamline their admissions cycle, which involves written tests, interviews and rounds of verification, many also admit the move was driven by competition, as they feel compelled to keep pace with peer institutions that have already started their application windows.

A senior official from Christ (Deemed-to-be University) said, "The college advanced its timeline after noticing that others had already opened admissions."

"Every year, colleges in Bengaluru start early, so we decided to follow the general trend," the official said. Christ has for the first time opened applications in late October, instead of the usual December or January.

Institutions say that the curriculum has become more rigorous, and completing admissions earlier would allow the academic year to begin sooner, helping the college plan classes and timetables more efficiently. FILE PHOTO

Parents are not entirely convinced about this move by colleges, while students echo a mix of relief and anxiety

A representative from Mount Carmel College (MCC) said the institution advanced its admissions cycle because competing colleges had already done so. Moreover, Bengaluru is also seeing a sharp rise in applicants from outside, prompting it to move ahead of schedule to manage the volume. "The college is still in its early years of opening admissions to boys, and starting the process sooner gives students more time to understand the programmes and make informed choices," the official said, adding that at present, the gender ratio stands at less than 30% boys and over 70% girls, but the college hopes to move towards an even 50-50 distribution across courses. The institutions also pointed out that the curriculum has become more rigorous, and completing admissions earlier would allow the academic year to begin sooner, helping the college plan classes and timetables more efficiently.

Syed Wajeed, Registrar of St. Joseph's University, said that in the weeks leading up to admissions, inquiries surge and phone lines remain constantly busy, and students frequently ask when the portal would open. In response to this demand, the university feels compelled to begin admissions ahead of its usual schedule so that first-choice applicants are not forced to commit to other institutions prematurely.

The registrar added that the university attracts a diverse pool of local and international applicants across its wide range of programmes and that processing such a high volume requires multiple stages, including application screening, entrance tests, interviews, counselling and career guidance.

Parents, however, are not entirely convinced. They point out that Class 12 students do not yet have their board marks, which means early admissions are only provisional. By the time results are declared, a student may change their mind or qualify for a different institution, leaving families financially burdened. Many parents feel the move pushes students into applying everywhere out of fear that they might 'miss out' in the race.

Students themselves echo a mix of relief and anxiety. Some told *The Hindu* that applying early helps reduce stress during exam months, when form-filling becomes an added worry. "It is easy to apply now because later we are all caught up with preparations, and thinking about college adds to that pressure," said Soumya P., a student of Mount Carmel PU College.

Others felt the trend has created a different kind of pressure. "Everyone is applying because admissions opened early, and that makes you worry about competition," said Maney K., who is torn between choosing history or psychology.

He said he fears that if many students with similar scores apply, colleges may give preference to those who submitted forms first and in such confused situations, students apply for multiple courses across institutions.

'State govt. will retain independent existence of PU Dept.'

The Hindu Bureau
BELAGAVI

Madhu Bangarappa refutes the allegation that govt. intends to demote PU lecturers as high school teachers

The State government will not take any steps that will affect the independent existence of the Department of Pre University, Minister for School Education and Literacy Madhu Bangarappa said in the Assembly in Belagavi on Thursday.

Responding to a joint call attention motion moved by members S.V. Sankanur, S.L. Bhoje Gowda, Puttanna, Shashil Namoshi, and D.T. Srinivas, Mr. Bangarappa said that reports that the government was taking away the autonomy of the PU department by merging it with School Education were far from true.

Merger

"In trying to explore solutions to our problems, we have held wide-ranging discussions with various stakeholders. However, we have not issued any circulars or orders on the issue of merging high schools and PU colleges," the Minister said. "As the then Chief Minister S. Bangarappa had created PU as a separate department. Being his son, why do you think I will close it?" he asked. He said that the reports that PU college teachers would be asked to teach students of classes 9 and 10 were far from truth. "We have discussed this issue among others. But we have not come to any conclusion about it. This was discussed in the light of the fact that it would be good to provide 14 years of continuous education to students at one place. This would help students and parents and therefore, high schools and PU colleges would be run on the same premises. The Karnataka public schools are a step in this direction," he said.

Mr. Bangarappa refuted the allegation that the government intended to demote PU lecturers as high school teachers. "On the contrary, I have rectified the mistakes committed by earlier governments that amounted to demoting them," he said.

Two rescued with the help of Namma 112

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Two Namma 112 teams, equipped with inputs from the Command Centre, helped rescue an unconscious man in Banashankari and an elderly woman in distress near M.G. Road in separate instances recently.

On Wednesday, an unknown person reported an elderly woman in distress at Lido Mall on M.G. Road, in the Halasuru Police Station limits. The caller informed Namma 112, following which assistant sub-inspector A. Rathod and constable Harish of Hoysala-29 were alerted.

The officers reached the spot in nine minutes, where they found a homeless woman, aged around 80, wandering without clothes. The officers provided her with clothes and food before enrolling her in an old-age home for care and rehabilitation, said the police.

In another incident on Tuesday morning, an unidentified passer-by noticed a man lying unconscious on Kaveri Nagar Road in Banashankari 2nd Stage and alerted the emergency helpline Namma 112.

The Command Centre dispatched assistant sub-inspector K.H. Gowda and constable Umesh, who were patrolling in Hoysala-148 of the Banashankari Police Station.

The duo reached the spot within 11 minutes and shifted the man to Victoria Hospital for urgent medical attention, a statement released by the city police said. After treatment, the police traced his family and sent him home safely.

Swift operation

The police said that the geolocation-enabled dispatch system and quick protocols implemented under the Safe City Project were helping the police execute such operations swiftly. The police urged citizens to use the Namma 112 helpline to report emergencies, noting that their identity would not be disclosed and that timely intervention can be ensured.

Dak Adalat

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Office of the Postmaster General, South Karnataka Region, will conduct a Regional Dak Adalat on December 18 at 4 p.m. It will be held at the conference room, Office of the Postmaster General, in the GPO Building in Bengaluru.

Conference held

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Decades of chemical farming have degraded soil, water, and human health, said Padma Shri awardee farmer Abdul Khader Nadakattin at National Seminar on Natural Farming in Bengaluru on Wednesday.

Timings
BENGALURU

FRIDAY, DEC. 12
RISE 06:32 SET 17:55
RISE 00:12 SET 12:36

SATURDAY, DEC. 13
RISE 06:32 SET 17:55
RISE 00:59 SET 13:11

SUNDAY, DEC. 14
RISE 06:33 SET 17:56
RISE 01:45 SET 13:46

Bengaluru Weather	max	min
Tumakuru	28	22
Mysuru	29	20
Bengaluru	27	18

Bengaluru Today
27°C The weather will be dry.Day will be comfortable. Night will be slight cool and hazy.

Bengaluru Tomorrow
28°C Morning will be slight cool with mist and haze. Day will be comfortable. Night also will be slight cool. Dry weather to occur.

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THE HINDU
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Advertisement No:- UPMSCL/04/HR/2025-26/1272 Dated: 10/12/2025

Uttar Pradesh Medical Supplies Corporation Limited invites application for the following positions on Deputation/ Contractual:

Sr. No.	Designation	Maximum Age Limit (In year)	Vacancy	Category	Mode of Recruitment	Honoraria in INR (Monthly)	Essential Qualification	Post Qualification experience
1	Bio Medical Engineer (Quality control)	45	01	GEN (UR)	Deputation/ Contractual	(47,600-50,000) Pay Matrix-8 (in case of Deputation)	Applicant must have full time bio medical engineer degree (B.E/B.tec) from UGC recognized Indian University	Applicant must have minimum 3 years work experience in the field of Bio Medical Engineering quality

* Interested Candidates must send their application form in the prescribed format along with self attested relevant document by speed post/registered AD from Indian Postal Department by mentioning on the envelop " Application for the (Post Name)" to GM (AHL), SUDA Bhawan 7/23 sector -7 Gomti nagar extention, Lucknow PIN:226010. Applications sent by any other mode shall not be entertained. Submission of Application Starts from December 11, 2025. * The Last Date of Submission of Application is January 10, 2026 at 05:00 PM.* Regular government (Department/Corporations/Institutions) employees with suitable experience on seniority (matrix level) are encouraged to apply on deputation. * Vacancies shall be subject to the State reservation policy of Uttar Pradesh. * Age relaxation for candidate applying on Deputation shall be in accordance to Govt. of UP Service Norms. * Please note January 01 ,2025 shall be taken as a reference date for computing age, qualification, experience etc. Application not received on prescribed format will be rejected. Application format may be download from the wesite:- www.upmsc.in

Managing Director, UPMSCL

For vacancy notification and other related detailed information please visit www.upmsc.in

Department of Medical Health & Family Welfare, Uttar Pradesh

OFFICE OF THE REGISTRAR, CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETIES GOVT. OF JHARKHAND

BID NOTICE FOR PROCUREMENT& SUPPLY OF COMPUTER HARDWARE TO COOPERATIVE TRAINING INSTITUTE, FEDERATIONS AND OFFICESUNDER REGISTRAR, CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETIES, JHARKHAND"

No.2789 ,Dated: 10-12-2025

Office of the Registrar, Co-operative Societies, Jharkhand invites bids for procurement and supply of computer hardware to Co-operative Training Institute, Federations, and offices under Registrar, Cooperative Societies, Jharkhand. Interested bidder can download the RFP document from https://jharkhand.gov.in/agriculture/dcs or GeM Portal.

The Pre-qualification, technical and financial bids shall be submitted online through GeM Portal, the deadline of the submission of the bid is given below:

S. No.	Description	Earnest Money Deposit (EMD)	Start date for online bid downloading	End date for online bid submission
1	Procurement and supply of computer hardware to Co-operative Training Institute, Federations, and offices under Registrar, Cooperative Societies, Jharkhand	Rs. 4,12,000.00	11-12-2025	26-12-2025

The prospective bidder(s) should submit their suggestions/ observations, if any, in writing / email by the date as mentioned in the RFP schedule. Only suggestions / observations received in writing/email will be clarified and any modification of the RFP documents shall be made by Office of the Registrar, Co-operative Societies, Jharkhand exclusively through the issue of an addendum/corrigendum. The RFP uploaded shall be read along with any modification. Authorized representatives of prospective bidder(s) can attend the said meeting and obtain clarification regarding specifications, works & RFP conditions.

The RFP document is available on https://jharkhand.gov.in/agriculture/dcs and **GeM portal** along with this Bid notice.

The bidders are required to submit Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) of Rs.**4,12,000.00/- (Rupees Four Lakh Twelve Thousand Only)** in form of bank guarantee/ demand draft issued by any commercial bank in the favour of the Registrar, Co-operative Societies, Jharkhand.

Note: - The original copies of EMD should be submitted to the Office of Registrar Co-operative Societies, Jharkhand as per the Schedule mentioned in this RFP document.

The Office of the Registrar, Co-operative Societies, Jharkhand shall not be liable for any omission, mistake or error in respect of any of the above or on account of any matter or thing arising out of or concerning or relating to the RFP or the Bidding Process, including any error or mistake therein or in any information or data given.

The Office of the Registrar, Co-operative Societies, Jharkhand reserves the right to reject all or any of the bid(s) without assigning any reason at any stage.

Bidders shall note that any corrigendum issued regarding this bid notice/RFP will be published on the GeM portal only. No corrigendum will be published in the local newspapers.

Sd/-
Registrar, Co-operative Societies, Jharkhand

PR 368243 (Co-opretive)25-26*D

PUBLIC NOTICE

Our client **Mr. Issac Kurian Kunnirickal** represents that the Original Allotment Letter dated 17.01.2014, Sale Agreement and Construction Agreement both dated 03.02.2014 in respect of Residential Flat No.203, bearing BBMP E Aasthi Property No. 121/3-203 (E.P.I.D No: 83-74-121/3-203) Unit C, measuring 1464 Sq Ft of Super Built up area with One covered car parking space No. 203C in **"ELEGANT VITA NUOVA"** along with **476.48 Sq.Ft.** of undivided share, right, title, interest over Immovable residential property being portion of Plot No.1, identified as 1-D, bearing BBMP Khata No. 121/3, measuring 4927.97 Sq Ft and immovable residential strip of land measuring 477.59 Sq Ft being the portion of the Plot No. 1-C, bearing portion of BBMP khata No. 121/2, carved out of Residentially Converted Land in Survey No. 142/2 presently bearing Consolidated BBMP Khata No. 121/3 (old No, 189/1), totally measuring 5405.56 Sq Ft, situated at **Nagavarpalya, C V Raman Nagar, Varthur Road, Benniganahalli Village, Krishnarajapuram Hobli, Bangalore East Taluk,** has been lost/misplaced and not mortgaged/ pledged. A police complaint bearing **Lost Report No. 1940787/2025, dated 05/12/2025** has been Lodged. Person/s in possession of the aforesaid document may return the same to the undersigned.

Geetha Halliyal,
TAVISA LEGAL Advocates
42 High Street, No.775, 2nd Floor,
100 feet Road, Indiranagar,
Bangalore-560038, Ph : 9980519476
email : geethahalliyal@gmail.com

PUBLIC NOTICE

General Public are hereby informed that my client intends to purchase the schedule property from its owners/landlords **1. Sri. UMESH C S/o. Late. Chikkayallaiah, 2. N.L. Srinivas S/o. Lakshmaiah.**

Anyone having any claim, share or interest in the schedule property shall lodge their claims with Original documents with the undersigned within **7 days** from the date of publication of this notice. If no claims are lodged within **7 days** of time it shall be presumed that **1. Sri. UMESH C S/o. Late. Chikkayallaiah, 2. N.L. Srinivas S/o. Lakshmaiah** are having valid & marketable title to the schedule property and my client will proceed with the purchase of schedule property.

SCHEDULE

All that piece and parcel of the immovable property bearing **Site No. 36,** Huskoor Grama Khatha No. 4275/36, E-Swathu No. 150200202800523394, Approved Layout Plan No. NPA/LAO/77-2021-22, dated 17-09-2024, bearing Conversion No. 295717/295715/22-02-2022, 266285/266283/267623, dated 21-10-2021, Formed in Converted land Survey Nos. 130/8, 131/1, 131/7 & 130/1, Situated at **Bethanagere Village, Dasanapura Hobli, Bangalore North Taluk, Bangalore City District,** Presently falls under Huskoor Grama Panchayathi, Bangalore North Taluk, Bangalore District, the same being: –

BOUNDED as follows:
East by : Site No. 35,
West by : Sy No. 140,
North by : Sy No. 131/2,
South by : 9.0 M Wide Road,
MEASURING :
East to West : 11.44+9.32/2 Meters
North to South : 14.32 Meters

The statutory particulars are - in all totally measuring **148.64 Meters or 1600 square feet** of Vacant Site Area along with all the rights, liberties, privileges, appurtenances, etc., both underneath or above the surface thereon.

SYED GHOUSE PASHA
HMS LAWYERS NEST, ADVOCATES,
No. 1, 'Syed Manzil', 13th Cross, 1st Stage,
Pillanna Garden, Sagayapuram, Bangalore-84.
Mobile : 99455-69486.

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY
E-Procurement (IREPS)
Tender Notice No: HE-22-2025-26
The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, Invites E-Tenders for the following works:

Sl.No.	Name of work	Approx. Value
1	Provision of enhanced safety requirements of electrical substations including civil and electrical works over Hubballi station.	Rs. 77,00,225.00
2	Electrical arrangements to Augmentation of Mechanized Laundry at SSS Hubballi (UBL) Station.	Rs. 76,13,073.18

Last date for submission of bids:
Upto 11:00 Hrs. on 03.01.2026
For details log on: www.ireps.gov.in
Senior Divisional Electrical Engineer/ General/Hubballi
PUB/732/AAMO/PRB/SWR/2025-26
Download the UTS Mobile App from Google Play Store for ease of booking of unreserved tickets
South Western Railway - SWR | SWRRLY | SWRAILWAYHQ | sw_railways

WEST CENTRAL RAILWAY
Advertised E-Tendering Tender Notice No. DY-CE-C-KURJ-06-2025, Dated 08.12.2025

E-Tender [Single Packet System] on behalf of the President of India, acting through **Dy. Chief Engineer (Construction), West Central Railway, Khajuraho,** invites tenders for the following works. **Description of work: Work for construction of Station Buildings, Quarters, Platforms, Circulating area, COP and FOBs between Barakhera and Ajaygarh station of Panna-Khajuraho section of Lalitpur-Singrauli New BG Rail Line Project. Approx. cost of tender:** ₹ 92.24 Crore. **Earnest Money:** ₹ 47,62,100/-. **Date of opening of tender:** 31.12.2025, 15.00 Hrs. **Completion Period:** 18 months. The complete information of above E-Tender is available in website **IREPS (www.ireps.gov.in)** and also placed on the notice board of the office of Dy.CE/C/KURJ. Tenders other than in the form of e-bids shall not be accepted against above tenders.

स्वच्छ भारत अभियान
एक कदम स्वच्छता की ओर

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY
Tender Notice No. CAO/CN/BNC/167/2025
Dated : 08-12-2025
The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, invites E-Tenders for the following works.

Name of the Work	Approx. Value
Request for Proposal (RFP) for appointment of Authority Engineer(s) for providing project management services for Project-1: Construction of new Broad Gauge line between Mid Section (km:5.72) and Kuppam (incl.) (km:23.869) under Marikuppam - Kuppam new line project (23.7km) including Civil & Track works, Signal & Telecommunication works, Railway Electrification and Electrical general services (EPC) and for Project-2: Construction of a New Broad Gauge Railway line between Malugur (Chainage (-) 1906.6 (Ch: 108125 of Yelahanka - Penukonda) to Palasamudram (Chainage 17/150) including 02 New Yards (Chalivendala & Palasamudram) and existing Malugur Yard modification with a route length of 19.057 km including Signal & Telecommunication, Electrification & Electrical general service works (EPC). **(Tender Ref. No. PMS-MLU-PALA-MKM-KPN)**	Rs. 10,29,54,466/-

Last date for submission of bids:
Upto 15:00 Hrs on 27-01-2026
For details log on: www.ireps.gov.in
Deputy Chief Engineer/Construction/ Works/Bengaluru Cantonment
PUB/720/AAS/PRB/SWR/2025-26
Download the UTS Mobile App from Google Play Store for ease of booking of unreserved tickets
South Western Railway-SWR | SWRRLY | @SWRAILWAYHQ | @sw_railways

पंजाब नैशनल बैंक punjab national bank
...the name you can BANK upon !

Frazer Town Branch : #100, Ground Floor,Mosque Road
FRAZER TOWN -560005 Tel : 080-25465406
email :bo127710@pnb.bank.in

NOTICE TO LOCKER HIRERS

We hereby notify the Bank's intention to break open the following lockers for recovery of locker rent arrearsfor more than **3 (three) years** as well as locker remains inoperative (irrespective of whether rent is paid or not) a period of **7 (seven) years** or more and the customer cannot be located by the Bank. The lessee to visit the branch on or before **11/03/2026** to avoid further proceeding.

Sl No	Locker No	Name	Address	Rent Arrear
1	CC14	Abhishek Punjabi Deepshika Punjabi	FLAT NO 102,FAIR , HEAVEN APT, NEXT TO LEMON TREE, HOTEL ST JOHNS ROAD ULSOOR BANGALORE - 560042	Rs.30,089.00
2	AA7	MOHAMMED ILYAS AHMED & M D USMANGHANI	DOOR NO 78, 5TH CROSS ,POTTERY TOWN, JAYAMAHAL , BANGALORE - 560046	Rs.15,080.00

Place : Bangalore
Date : 11.12.2025
Branch Manager
Punjab National Bank

Uttar Pradesh Medical Supplies Corporation Limited
(A Govt. of Uttar Pradesh Undertaking)
GSTIN: 09AACCU2250P1ZZ; CIN: U85310UP2018SGC102425

Tender Ref. No.: GEM/2025/B/6950172 Date: 10-12-2025

Tender Notice Invitation

Uttar Pradesh Medical Supplies Corporation Limited, Lucknow invites tenders on GeM Portal from eligible and qualified Manufacturer/Importer/Authorized Agent for supply of **Brain Stem Evoked Response Audiometer with ASSR with OAE.** The schedules of Tendering activities are as here under:

S.N.	Activity	Date & Time
1.	Tender Reference No.	GEM/2025/B/6950172
2.	Commencement of Downloading of Tender Document	10-12-2025
3.	Date & Time of Pre-Bid Meeting	18/12/2025 at 4:00 PM in Conference Hall of UPMSCL, Lucknow.
4.	Last Date & Submission of Online Bids	31/12/2025 up to 11:00 PM.
5.	Date & Time of Opening of Technical Bids	31/12/2025 at 11:30 PM
6.	Date of Completion of Examination of Technical Bid	To be declared on GeM Portal
7.	Date & Time of Opening of Financial Bid	To be declared on GeM Portal
8.	Date of Completion of Examination of Financial Bid	To be declared on GeM Portal

The details of tender notice are given on GeM Portal & UPMSCL website www.upmsc.in. Kindly check GeM Portal & UPMSCL website for any detail & updates.

Managing Director, UPMSCL
Department of Medical Health & Family Welfare, Uttar Pradesh

कर्मचारी राज्य बीमा निगम
(श्रम एवं रोजगार मंत्रालय, भारत सरकार)
EMPLOYEES' STATE INSURANCE CORPORATION
(Ministry of Labour & Employment, Govt. of India)
कर्मचारी राज्य बीमा निगम अस्पताल, पीन्या सं. 11-55-1, प्लॉट सं.1, इसा मेन रोड (एफ.टी.आई. कैंपस) यशवंतपुर उपनगर, यशवंतपुर, पो-ऑ. बैंगलूरू. 560022
ESIC Hospital Peenya, 55-1-11, Plot No.1, 3rd Main Road (FTI Campus), Survey N. 11, Yeshwanthapur, Bengaluru-560022
Ph.No. 080-29723468, E-mail: ms-peenya.ka@esic.nic.in

No.492/A/12/13/Rect/2014/Estt Date: 08.12.2025

WALK-IN INTERVIEW ON 16.12.2025
FOR ENGAGEMENT OF SENIOR RESIDENT UNDER THREE YEARS RESIDENCY SCHEME AND FULL TIME/PART TIME SPECIALIST ON CONTRACT BASIS.

Employees State Insurance Corporation, Hospital, Peenya, Bengaluru intends to engage the services of **Senior Resident Under three years residency scheme and Full Time/Part Time Specialist** on contract basis.

Reservation as per Govt. of India guidelines. The detailed Advertisement containing eligibility criteria, other terms and conditions for the above posts, Application Form / Bio-Data Form are available on our official web site **www.esic.gov.in.**

Sd/-
Medical Superintendent

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF FINANCE, DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE
DIRECTORATE GENERAL OF SYSTEMS AND DATA MANAGEMENT
CENTRAL BOARD OF INDIRECT TAXES AND CUSTOMS
HOTEL SAMRAT, CHANAKYAPURI, NEW DELHI

Email: cis.dgsystems@gov.in Website: www.cbic.gov.in
Tender Id.: 2025_DREV_889258 Date:

NOTICE

EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (EOI) FOR SELECTION OF IMPLEMENTATION AGENCY (IA) FOR CUSTOMS INTEGRATED SYSTEM (CIS)

The President of India, through the Principal Director General, Directorate General of Systems & Data Management in the Central Board of Indirect Taxes & Customs invites Expression of Interest for Selection of Implementation Agency for Customs Integrated System (CIS). The interested bidders may submit their duly filled application with complete information required as per the tender document id 2025_DREV_889258 uploaded on CPPP portal on 10.12.2025. The last date for submission of bids is 21.01.2026 upto 17:00 hrs (IST). For detailed Notice and for participation, please visit the e-tender website: https://eprocure.gov.in/eprocure/app.

All queries may be emailed to cis.dgsystems@gov.in

CBC 15502/11/0045/2526

Invisible epidemic: why air pollution is India's largest health threat?

India's air quality crisis is both widespread and deeply entrenched; the scientific evidence is overwhelming, and the health impacts are undeniable; country must now recognise clean air as a fundamental right essential to equitable growth and a non-negotiable national priority

Sudheer Kumar Shukla

Air pollution in India is no longer a winter irritant confined to the northern plains. It has become a persistent, nationwide public health emergency that affects every demographic group and nearly every organ system. Across the Indo-Gangetic plain, and increasingly in fast-growing urban centres elsewhere, dangerous concentrations of particulate matter are shaping disease patterns, slowing childhood development and silently reducing life expectancy.

India's air quality crisis is both widespread and deeply entrenched. Of the 256 cities monitored in 2025, 150 exceeded the national PM 2.5 standard as per a report by the Centre for Research on Energy and Clean Air. For most urban residents, breathing unhealthy or hazardous air is now a routine part of the year. The Indo-Gangetic plain remains the worst affected. In 2025, Delhi recorded seasonal PM 2.5 levels of 107 -130 $\mu g/m^3$– far above India's 24-hour limit of 60 $\mu g/m^3$ and the World Health Organization guideline of 15 $\mu g/m^3$.

Flawed index, outdated ceiling

India's official Air Quality Index (AQI) continues to cap values at 500, although real-time pollution levels in Delhi and other cities often exceed this threshold. The cap – introduced over a decade ago – was intended to avoid public alarm and was based on the belief that health impacts beyond 500 would be uniformly severe. Consequently, government platforms collapse all extreme pollution into one "severe" category, even as international trackers such as IQAir routinely show values above 600 and occasionally beyond 1,000. Experts have repeatedly pointed out that India's AQI relies on outdated thresholds and instruments, and that the scale requires recalibration, removal of the upper cap and modernised monitoring.

The health burden of toxic air is stark. According to the Air Quality Life Index (AQLI) of the University of Chicago's Energy Policy Institute, nearly 46% of Indians live in regions where air pollution significantly reduces life expectancy. In Delhi, current PM 2.5 exposure translates into a loss of more than eight years of life when measured against WHO standards. Across northern India, the losses range between 3.5 and seven years.

The mortality toll is equally worrying. In 2023, air pollution contributed to nearly two million deaths nationwide, as per the State of Global Air Report, 2025, primarily from cardiovascular disease, stroke, COPD and diabetes. Pollution-linked mortality has risen by 43% since 2000, underscoring the cumulative effects of long-term exposure.

What PM 2.5 does inside the body

Cardiovascular harm: PM 2.5 particles penetrate deep into the lungs, cross into the bloodstream and provoke systemic inflammation. Multi-city epidemiological studies in India show an 8% increase in annual mortality for every 10 $\mu g/m^3$ rise in long-term PM 2.5 exposure. Elevated exposure is linked to hypertension, atherosclerosis, myocardial infarction, arrhythmias and ischemic stroke. In a country already struggling with high cardiovascular disease rates, polluted air acts as a potent, invisible accelerant.

Gasping for air: Air pollution in India is no longer a winter irritant confined to the northern plains. It has become a persistent, nationwide public health emergency that affects every demographic group and nearly every organ system. SUSHIL KUMAR VERMA

Respiratory illness: Respiratory illnesses remain the most visible consequence of toxic air. Nearly 6% of Indian children now suffer from asthma. Clinical data from AIIMS reveals that a modest 10 $\mu g/m^3$ increase in PM 2.5 can cause a 20–40% spike in paediatric emergency visits for respiratory distress. Children exposed to high pollution levels show a 10–15% reduction in lung capacity – a deficit that may persist into adulthood. Among adults, COPD, chronic bronchitis and recurrent respiratory infections are increasingly common, especially for those living near roads, industries, landfills and construction sites.

Neurological impacts: Emerging scientific evidence shows that air pollution affects the brain as seriously as it affects the lungs and heart. PM 2.5 particles can cross the blood-brain barrier, triggering neuroinflammation and oxidative stress. Studies from Indian cities link pollution exposure to poorer academic performance, impaired memory and slower cognitive development among children. International meta-analyses show a 35–49% higher risk of dementia for every 10 $\mu g/m^3$ increase in PM 2.5. Reviews in *Environmental Health Perspectives* (2024) suggest that polluted air accelerates brain ageing through vascular injury and toxic metal deposition.

Maternal and neonatal health: High PM 2.5 exposure is associated with preterm births, low birth weight, stillbirths, and heightened neonatal mortality. Women living near major roads, industrial sites or waste-burning hotspots are especially vulnerable. These early-life impacts have long-term consequences, deepening health inequities across generations.

Air pollution contributed to nearly two million deaths in 2023, as per the latest State of Global Air Report, primarily from cardiovascular disease, stroke, COPD and diabetes

Air pollution in India mirrors existing social and economic inequalities. Lower-income communities often live closest to emission hotspots – major roads, industrial clusters, construction zones and landfills. Children in these neighbourhoods spend more time outdoors and are therefore more exposed. Poor housing, limited access to clean fuels and inadequate healthcare exacerbate vulnerabilities. During winter, States such as Delhi, Punjab, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh and Bihar frequently record "severe" or "hazardous" AQI levels (CREA, 2025), where the poorest bear the heaviest burden.

Public discussions often focus on stubble burning or Diwali fireworks. While these events intensify pollution, they are not the root cause. Source-apportionment studies consistently show that year-round structural contributors – vehicular emissions, industrial processes, dust from construction and demolition, informal waste burning, and household biomass use – drive baseline PM 2.5 levels. Seasonal factors simply worsen an already dangerous situation.

The National Clean Air Programme (NCAP) has initiated some improvements, but its targets remain modest and enforcement weak. Therefore, a health-centred, multi-sectoral strategy is now essential, which should include the following aspects:

Transport transformation: Large-scale electrification of buses, taxis, auto-rickshaws and two-wheelers; shifting freight from diesel trucks to rail and electric fleets; real-world emissions monitoring; and the introduction of low-emission zones and congestion pricing.

Industrial control: Strict enforcement of pollution-control technologies and a phased transition from coal-based processes.

Construction regulation: Mandatory dust-suppression protocols, enclosure norms and mechanised sweeping.

Waste-management reform: Segregation at source, decentralised treatment, biomethanation and scientific landfill remediation to eliminate open burning.

Health-system integration: A health-centred framework should integrate air quality into routine healthcare. District-level advisories based on real-time AQI, lung-function testing within school-health programmes, and screening for COPD and cognitive decline.

A fundamental right

India must recognise clean air as a fundamental right essential to equitable growth. The scientific evidence is overwhelming, and the health impacts are undeniable. Protecting clean air must now become a non-negotiable national priority – anchored in science, driven by public health, and executed with urgency.

(Dr. Sudheer Kumar Shukla is an environmental scientist and sustainability expert. He currently serves as head-think tank at Mobius Foundation, New Delhi. sudheerkrshukla@gmail.com)

THE GIST

- India's air quality crisis is both widespread and deeply entrenched. Of the 256 cities monitored in 2025, 150 exceeded the national PM 2.5 standard as per a report by the Centre for Research on Energy and Clean Air. India's official Air Quality Index (AQI) continues to cap values at 500, although real-time pollution levels in Delhi and other cities often exceed this threshold.
- The health burden of toxic air is stark. According to the Air Quality Life Index (AQLI) of the University of Chicago's Energy Policy Institute, nearly 46% of Indians live in regions where air pollution significantly reduces life expectancy
- The National Clean Air Programme (NCAP) has initiated some improvements, but its targets remain modest and enforcement weak. Therefore, a health-centred, multi-sectoral strategy is now essential

Preventing strokes before they begin: tools everyone should be aware of

Vikram Huded

Brain strokes continue to remain one of the most alarming public health challenges in India. It is evident that many strokes need never have happened. Strokes are the final event in a long, silent process – one that we now have the tools to detect, slow down, and often prevent.

One of the most overlooked contributors to stroke risk lies not in the brain, but in the neck. The carotid arteries, which carry blood to the brain, can gradually narrow due to the build-up of fatty plaques. This process is often completely symptom-free. Yet when a plaque ruptures or a clot forms, blood flow to the brain can suddenly stop, leading to irreversible paralysis, loss of speech, or even death.

Recently, an important international study, the CREST-2 trial, offered new clarity on how we can better protect people at risk. The study followed more than 2,400 individuals with severe but symptom-free carotid narrowing. All participants received the best possible medical therapy – including strict control of blood pressure, cholesterol, and other vascular risks. However, the findings showed something crucial: those who also underwent carotid stenting had nearly half the risk of stroke or early death over four years compared with those treated with medicines alone.

Tools available

This does not mean that every individual with carotid disease requires an intervention. What it does reinforce, however, is that early identification of severe carotid narrowing provides an opportunity to offer additional protection to those who truly need it.

One of the simplest tools available to us is the carotid Doppler ultrasound. This non-invasive test uses sound waves – without any radiation – to assess plaque build-up and measure how much the artery has narrowed. It is quick, painless, widely available, and remarkably informative. While it is not recommended indiscriminately for everyone, it can be immensely useful for individuals with multiple stroke risk factors. These include high blood pressure, diabetes, elevated cholesterol levels, smoking, heart disease, peripheral artery disease, or a strong family history of vascular events. For adults above 50-55 with such risks, adding a carotid Doppler scan to an annual health check can help unearth dangerous blockages long before they cause harm.

The most effective protection against stroke continues to be disciplined control of blood pressure, cholesterol, and diabetes and regular physical activity. FILE PHOTO

Focusing on the basics

Of course, no scan replaces the basics. The most effective protection against stroke continues to be disciplined control of blood pressure, cholesterol, and diabetes; quitting smoking; regular physical activity; and maintaining a healthy body weight. These lifestyle foundations remain our strongest defence.

At the same time, we must remember the signs that need urgent medical attention. Sudden weakness, facial drooping, slurred speech, vision loss, or sudden imbalance should *always* be treated as a medical emergency. These brief, transient episodes – often called warning strokes – may be the first indication of significant carotid disease and represent a narrow window to prevent something far more catastrophic.

As we work toward strengthening India's stroke-preparedness ecosystem, encouraging proactive risk assessment must be a key priority. A simple neck artery scan, guided by the individual's risk profile, can be the difference between identifying a silent threat early and discovering it only after disability strikes. Stroke prevention is not only possible – it is within reach, if we act n time.

(Dr. Vikram Huded is senior consultant, director, and clinical lead, interventional neurology programme, Narayana Health, Bengaluru. vikram.huded.dr@narayanahealth.org)

BEML rolls out prototype of new driverless metro trainset

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The trainset has been developed for Bengaluru's Namma Metro's upcoming Phase-2, 2A and 2B corridors. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

The BEML on Thursday rolled out the prototype of its new driverless metro trainset , developed for Bengaluru's Namma Metro's upcoming Phase-2, 2A and 2B corridors.

The PSU unveiled the first six-coach driverless trainset meant for the Pink Line at its Bengaluru Rail Complex for the highly anticipated corridor, which is expected to open in two stages by the end of 2026, connecting Kalena Agrahara to Nagawara.

J. Ravishankar, Managing Director of Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Ltd. (BMRCL), flagged off the prototype, in the presence of BEML Chairman and Managing Director Shantanu Roy and senior officials from both organisations.

Under the ongoing contract, the BEML will supply 318 standard-gauge coaches for the Pink Line and the Blue Line (airport corridor). According to the BEML officials, these trainsets, designed and engineered entirely in-house at the BEML's Bengaluru facility, will be subjected to rigorous testing and commissioning in line with the BMRCL's schedule.

The BEML will also provide up to 15 years of comprehensive maintenance support.

"The rollout marks an important step in the execution of the ₹3,177 crore contract, which the BEML secured through competitive bidding. The new prototype demonstrates its growing contribution to India's metro ecosystem, particularly in the domain of fully automated, Grade of Automation-4 (GoA4) systems," a official said. The new trainset features contemporary interiors, energy-efficient systems, upgraded passenger information displays, wider gangways for easy movement, USB charging points, ergonomic seating and accessibility features. "It is designed to comply with advanced fire safety and crashworthiness norms and is compatible with the Communication-Based Train Control technology, enabling fully driverless operations," the official said.

The BEML, the largest rolling-stock supplier to the Bengaluru Metro, recently received an additional order worth ₹414 crore for six more driverless trainsets for Phase-2's Yellow Line. Combined with a previous order of 42 additional cars, the total supply figure has now increased from 318 to 396 metro coaches for Phase-2.

In August 2023, the BEML secured a contract to manufacture and maintain 318 metro coaches (53 trainsets) over 15 years. This included 96 coaches designated for the Pink Line and 222 coaches for the Blue Line, which covers Phase 2A and 2B extensions. Meanwhile, a senior BMRCL official told *The Hindu* that as per the contract, the BEML was expected to supply the trains by June 2025, but the schedule has been delayed. "We now expect 16 trains to be delivered before the full Pink Line is completed in December 2026, so that trial runs, inspections, and CMRS approvals can be carried out as planned. The project is scheduled for completion by December 2026, after which the line can be opened to the public," the official said.

The first six-coach prototype train for the Pink Line, unveiled on Thursday, would be transported by trailers to the Kothanur depot after December 15, the officials said. The prototype would then undergo a series of tests for a minimum of five months.

The corridor, a crucial component of Namma Metro's Phase 2 expansion, will run 21.3 km from Kalena Agrahara in the south to Nagawara in the north. Of the total stretch, 13.8 km will be underground and 7.5 km will be elevated.

Minimum temperature likely to hover around 15 degrees Celsius

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The India Meteorological Department (IMD) has forecast that the minimum temperature in Bengaluru is likely to be between 15 and 17 degrees Celsius for the next five days.

IMD Scientist C.S. Patil said, "The fog and mist is very likely to prevail during early morning hours in some areas of Bengaluru and the neighbourhood."

On Thursday, the city observatory recorded a maximum and minimum of 27.6 degrees Celsius and 15.6 degrees Celsius respectively. While dry weather is likely to prevail over all the districts between December 8 and 12, many districts in north Karnataka are likely to experience cold wave conditions, he said. "In almost all districts in north Karnataka, minimum temperature during night time is likely to be between 10 and 12 degrees Celsius. Cold wave conditions are likely to occur over the districts of Bidar, Kalaburgi, Yadgir, Raichur, Vijayapura, Bagalkot, Koppal, Dharwad, Haveri, and Gadag over the next five days," he added.

The minimum temperature in the districts of south-interior Karnataka is likely to be between 12 and 14 degree Celsius.

Three killed as speeding car crashes into KSRTC bus

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Three people were killed after a car in which they were travelling hit the median, flipped into the opposite lane, before crashing into an oncoming KSRTC bus near Laalagondanahalli in northeast Bengaluru on Wednesday around 11.30 p.m.

The deceased have been identified as Mohan Kumar, 33, Suman V., 28, and Sagar S., 23, all residents of Sadahalli on the city's northeastern outskirts.

A preliminary probe revealed that the incident took place when the trio was returning from a wedding. The car crashed into the Bagepalli-bound KSRTC bus. The police suspected the car was being driven at a high speed, causing the driver to lose control. "The intensity of the crash is evident from the condition of the vehicle, which is irreparable," a senior officer from the northeast division told *The Hindu*. A blood test has been requested to determine whether the driver was under the influence of alcohol.

Of the 25 passengers who were on board the KSRTC bus, three sustained minor injuries. The Devanahalli Traffic Police have registered an FIR.

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ISSN 0971 - 751X

Text&Context

THE HINDU

NEWS IN NUMBERS

HIV-positive cases registered in Patna in 2025

1,200 Additional Project Director of Bihar AIDS Control Society, N. K. Gupta, told reporters that "1,200 HIV-positive cases have been registered in Patna, followed by more than 400 in East Champaran and 340 in West Champaran district in 2025 so far." PTI

Number of civilians killed in fighting in eastern Congo

413 More than 400 civilians have been killed as the Rwanda-backed M23 armed group continues its offensive in Kivu province in eastern Congo, regional officials said on late Wednesday, adding that Rwandan special forces were in the strategic city of Uvira. AP

Amount received by Pakistan from the IMF for climate resilience

1.2 in $ billion. The amount, which would reflect in the bank's foreign exchange reserves for the week ending December 12, is part of the IMF's dual track bailout for Pakistan with a 37-month Extended Fund Facility and climate focussed Resilience Sustainability Facility. PTI

Issues of aircraft GPS interference reported by govt. in two years

1,951 Global Positioning System/ Global Navigation Satellite System spoofing and jamming refers to attempts to manipulate a user's navigation system by giving false signals. In recent times, there have been instances of GPS spoofing and interference incidents. PTI

Farmer suicides in Maharashtra in the last three months

766 Raising the issue during Zero Hour in the Rajya Sabha, NCP(SCP) MP Fauzia Khan said Maharashtra leads the country in farmer suicides, with the State government informing the Assembly about the 766 deaths in three months. PTI

COMPILED BY THE HINDU DATA TEAM

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Savings shift reshapes India's markets

Domestic savings are replacing foreign institutional money, boosting stability but exposing new investors to uneven participation and higher risks; booming markets mask access and performance problems, underscoring the need to fix asymmetry and strengthen investor protection

ECONOMIC NOTES

Saumitra Bhaduri
Shubham Anand

A significant transformation is under way in India's capital markets. Domestic household savings are now replacing foreign institutional money. This is not just a change in numbers – it is a shift in market power. Indian equities are less exposed to the unpredictable swings of global capital, which is positive for stability. However, there is a challenge: millions of new retail investors are stepping in, and not all of them are prepared for the complexities ahead. As India aims for "Viksit Bharat 2047," the question is whether stability built on unequal participation and limited returns supports inclusive growth.

The rise of domestic money

The latest NSE Market Pulse report shows Foreign Portfolio Investor (FPI) ownership of Indian equities at a 15-month low of 16.9% and 24.1% in the NIFTY 50. Meanwhile, domestic Mutual Funds (MFs) are hitting new highs quarter after quarter. Systematic Investment Plans (SIPs) are bringing in record inflows, and individual investors, through direct holdings and MFs, now own nearly 19% of the market, the highest in over two decades. Domestic savers are now the market's anchor. They are helping reduce volatility and giving institutions a "flight-to-stability" option, as seen in the NIFTY 50's surge in October.

This market ownership shift has a corresponding impact on the policy landscape. The Reserve Bank of India now enjoys greater flexibility, thanks to domestic inflows and record-low inflation – CPI inflation eased to 0.3% year-on-year in October. With less reliance on FPI flows, the central bank can prioritise stimulating bank credit growth and managing the growth-inflation trade-off, rather than defending the rupee from capital flight. Yet, this policy space is not guaranteed; it could quickly evaporate if household confidence falters or if market downturns disproportionately impact the most vulnerable. Without careful management, this shift risks becoming a source of future instability.

GETTY IMAGES

Boom in primary markets

Further reflecting the confidence in domestic capital, the primary market is booming. Seventy-one mainboard listings this fiscal year have raised over ₹1 lakh crore. This surge is supported by a strong appetite for capital formation: in the first nine months of FY25, Indian companies announced investments exceeding ₹32 lakh crore, a 39% increase over the same period last year. Notably, the share of private participation in these announcements has risen to around 70%.

However, beneath this growth lies a more complex reality. The celebratory narrative around MFs and retail participation often skips a key point: the quality of financial advice and how wealth is distributed. A concerning trend can be observed in the IPO market. Companies like Lenskart are commanding sky-high price-to-earnings multiples. Mamaearth and Nykaa have seen similar trends. These examples raise questions about whether market exuberance is outpacing fundamentals and whether retail investors are being exposed to excessive risk.

Financial literature provides some answers – investing doesn't guarantee better returns. This dynamic is highlighted in the so-called "performance problem" in finance, where most active fund managers struggle to consistently beat the market after accounting for risk and fees.

Unequal outcomes

The consequences of this structural inefficiency are direct, impacting how wealth is distributed across society. When new equity wealth is concentrated among upper-income groups – as seen in higher MF participation in areas with formal financial access – market stability may inadvertently accelerate wealth inequality. The recent decline in household equity wealth by ₹2.6 lakh crore in the last quarter is particularly concerning. If these losses are concentrated among new, vulnerable investors, the promise of inclusive growth rings hollow. Moreover, concentrated benefits dampen aggregate demand, as high wealth concentration often leads to a lower marginal propensity to consume.

One can argue that increased retail participation is a sign of democratisation and will naturally lead to better outcomes as markets mature. But without appropriate safeguards and education, new investors may face higher risks and losses. Market corrections are a normal part of investing, but when losses are concentrated among inexperienced investors, long-term trust in markets can be damaged.

Fixing asymmetry

Addressing these challenges requires more than just increasing the volume of savings. The current financial system must confront the "access asymmetry problem." This means shifting the focus from simply disclosing information to actively protecting everyday investors. Key steps include incentivising lower fees and promoting passive, low-cost investment vehicles.

With active schemes holding 9% of the market and low-cost passive funds only 1%, lowering expense ratios and educating investors on indexing are crucial steps toward solving the "performance problem."

Deeper structural issues also demand attention. As promoter holdings in the NIFTY 50 reach a 23-year low of 40%, it is vital to ensure this reflects healthy capital raising, not opportunistic disinvestment. Strengthening corporate governance and transparency is necessary to safeguard long-term value for domestic savers.

Equally important are data-driven interventions. Using gender- and location-specific data can help identify gaps in access and outcomes, enabling targeted policies that bring more women and underrepresented investors into the financial mainstream.

The market's new foundation is promising, but the imperative now is to shift from simply attracting funds to proactively deepening institutional integrity and broadening financial literacy. Navigating the asymmetries inherent in financial deepening is no longer a peripheral concern; it is a fiduciary imperative.

Saumitra Bhaduri is a Professor, Madras School of Economics, Chennai; Shubham Anand is a PhD Scholar

THE GIST

- Domestic household savings replace foreign institutional money, giving Indian markets stability but raising concerns about unequal participation and limited returns for new retail investors.
- Access asymmetry and unequal outcomes emerge as key challenges, making investor protection, lower fees, passive investing, and stronger governance crucial.

What does Supreme Court's ruling on narco tests mean?

Why did the court set aside the Patna High Court order allowing an involuntary narco test?

C.B.P. Srivastava

The story so far:

The Supreme Court has held that any forced or involuntary narco test shall be unconstitutional and invalid, setting aside a Patna High Court order that permitted such a test in *Amlesh Kumar v. State of Bihar* (2025). The apex court is of the view that the High Court's order was in contravention of the guidelines given in *Selvi v. State of Karnataka* (2010).

What is a narco test?

A narco test is a process of investigation during which it is expected that the accused, undergoing such a test, would express the concealed facts. He is sedated by administering a certain class of substances, such as barbiturates, for instance, Sodium Pentothal, to reduce a subject's inhibitions and reasoning ability. It is a non-violent method similar to those called polygraphs or brain mapping.

Why are these tests constitutionally problematic?

Clause (3) of Article 20 of the Constitution provides for the protection against self-incrimination, meaning that no person accused of any offence shall be compelled to be a witness against himself.

The Supreme Court, while referring to the Selvi guidelines, has held that without free consent, any such test would be unconstitutional and hence any information obtained therefore shall not be used as evidence. It is important to note that all three clauses of Article 20 form the constitutional foundation of India's criminal justice system. Clause (1) deals with ex-post facto laws – laws that declare an act as an offence which, when committed, was not an offence. Further, Clause (2) states that no person shall be prosecuted and punished for the same offence more than once, that is, protection against double jeopardy. Clause (3), as discussed earlier, protects an accused from self-incrimination.

One of the principles of a democratic criminal justice system is the need to balance the rights of the victim with those of the accused. Any violation of the right against self-incrimination would be a matter of serious concern in the context of democratic values and principles. Similarly, personal liberty under Article 21 is of paramount importance because it incorporates the Right to Privacy, and any such test without the express consent of the person (accused) would violate one of the most basic human rights.

Moreover, it is also to be noted that Article 21, together with Articles 19 and 14, constitute the 'Golden Triangle' of the Constitution, as explained by the Supreme Court in *Maneka Gandhi v. Union of India* (1978). It means that violation of the Right to Privacy would thereby violate the Right to Life and Personal Liberty, and, finally, the Golden Triangle.

What have courts said about evidentiary value?

Two more case laws appear relevant in this regard. In *Manoj Kumar Saini v. State of MP* (2023) and *Vinobhai v. State of Kerala* (2025), the courts held that the results of a narco test do not confirm guilt. Although information obtained from the test might contribute to the investigation, it must be corroborated with other evidence. The Supreme Court has held that consent must be informed, recorded before a magistrate, and undertaken with medical, legal, and procedural safeguards.

Article 21 incorporates the phrase 'procedure established by law' which signifies that the procedure provided by law shall be fair. All procedural safeguards shall be taken care of before conducting any such non-invasive tests. The court has made it clear that a person may volunteer for a narco-analysis test at the stage of defence evidence under Section 253 of BNSS; however, there is no indefeasible right to such testing.

The principle underlying informed consent is individual autonomy, which is associated with the concept of natural justice. Enlightenment thinker Immanuel Kant said that an act is ethical only when performed with consent. In this context, forced or involuntary testing violates ethical principles as well as core human and natural values.

C.B.P. Srivastava is President, Centre for Applied Research in Governance, Delhi

THE GIST

- The Supreme Court has ruled that any forced or involuntary narco test is unconstitutional, holding that the Patna High Court's order violated the safeguards laid down in *Selvi v. State of Karnataka* (2010).
- The court reaffirmed that such tests, without voluntary and informed consent, breach Article 20(3)'s protection against self-incrimination as well as the Right to Privacy under Article 21.

'Display child helpline number at railway stations'

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Karnataka State Commission for Protection of Child Rights (KSCPCR) has written to Minister of State for Railways V. Somanna to initiate child protection services at all railway stations.

The commission suggested display of the child helpline number (1098) at all railway stations and trains for quick access and to increase people's awareness on such help line services.

The letter pointed out that incidents of child rights' violation, including trafficking of children, have been frequently happening at railway stations across the country.

"During our visits we also noticed various challenges at the Help Desk Facilities available at various railway stations and we request you to provide basic facilities at these help desk in order to improve their efficiency," the letter read.

The commission has also recommended providing regular training for the Railway Protection Force and State railway police personnel on various child rights acts.

"Some railway stations display the helpline number, but it's not mandatory. The help desk system need to be strengthened further. Officials need to be trained on how to act quickly in situations where children to be rescued and be made more aware about children's right," said Shashidhar Kosambe, chairperson of the KSCPCR.

Human Rights Day observed

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Centre for Protection of Democratic Rights and Secularism, Karnataka unit, marked International Human Rights Day at Freedom Park in Bengaluru on Wednesday. Law students from 12 colleges participated, and pledged to uphold human rights.

PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT, SRI. N.ASHOK KUMAR REDDY, S/o. Late. Nanjunda Reddy, Aged about 63 years, Residing at #457, Muneshwara Temple Street, Govindappa Layout, Amruthalli, Sahakaranagar Post, Bangalore North, Bangalore- 560092 and **SRI. N. MANJUNATHA REDDY,** S/o. Late. Nanjunda Reddy, Aged about 57 years, Residing at Villa No.71/72, Brick Field Shelter, Next to Serenity Highland, Neraluru Post,Bendaganahalli Village, Attibele Hobli, Anekal Taluk, Bangalore Urban District- 562107 are the absolute owners of the Schedule Property entered a registered Joint Development Agreement and General Power of Attorney in favour of **AIRA HOMES**, a partnership Firm, having office at Survey# 149/2, Gattahalli Village, Huskur Road, Bangalore 560099 is the Developer of the property described in the Schedule hereunder.

It has been brought to the notice of the general public that our client has already entered the registered Joint Development Agreement and General Power of Attorney with AIRA HOMES, a partnership Firm of **the Schedule Property from the above** owner. All persons having any claims against or to the Schedule Property or any part thereof by way of inheritance, mortgage, sale, conveyance, MOU, Agreement to Sell, Joint Development Agreement, G.P.A, transfer, lease deed, tenancy, license, lien, charge, trust, maintenance, easement, gift, exchange, possession, adverse possession or otherwise howsoever are hereby required to submit the same in writing along with documentary proof to the undersigned at their office **within 15 days from the date of publication hereof**, failing which our client shall proceed without any reference to such claim and the same, if any, will be considered as waived.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of the Agricultural Land bearing **Sy. No. 53/4,** measuring to an extent of **1 Acre 02 Guntas,** situated at **Hadosiddapura Village, Varthur-2 Hobli, Bangalore East Taluk, Bangalore Urban District** and bounded on the :- **East by :** Land belongs to Emmanuel Thomas Sy.No.53/1; **West by :** Land belongs to N.Subhas Reddy; **North by :** Road; **South by :** Land belongs to Bhadraiah and Ramaiah.

Dated this 12-12-2025 at Bangalore

M/S. LEGAL NEXUS
Advocates & Consultants
No. 428, 24th Main, 25th Cross, Sector-2, H.S.R Layout, Bangalore – 560 102.
Phone: 080-65555914,
Mobile: 9945688974; 6362102374

Office of the Engineer-in-Chief,
Planning & Road Asset Management Center (PRAMC),
4th Floor, PWD Annex Building, K.R. Circle, Bengaluru-01.

ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: ಪ್ರಇಂ:ಪ್ರಾಮ್ಸಿ:ಲೋಇ:2025–26 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 11.12.2025

ಅಧಿಸೂಚನೆ

Sealed Quotations invited from the firms/Dealers for the work Establishment of millet Value Chain Park, Raichur ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗೆ 4 TPH Seed Processing Unit ಯಂತ್ರೋಪಕರಣವನ್ನು Supply, Installation, Training & Commissioning ಮಾಡುವ ಕುರಿತು. ಸದರಿ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗೆ VICE-CHANCELLOR U.A.S Raichur & Special Officer (Seeds) University of Agricultural Sciences Raichur ರವರು ಅನುಮೋದಿಸಿರುವ ಪತ್ರದ ಸಂ:ಕೃ.ವಿ.ವಿ.ರಾ/ಬೀಜ ಘಟಕ/268/2025-26 **ದಿನಾಂಕ: 04.12.2025** ರಲ್ಲಿ ಸದರಿ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗೆ ಅವಶ್ಯವಿರುವ 4 TPH Seed Processing Unit ಯಂತ್ರೋಪಕರಣವನ್ನು Supply, Installation, Training & Commissioning ಮಾಡಲು ಅನುಮತಿ ಸೂಚಿಸಿರುತ್ತಾರೆ. ಅದರಂತೆ ಮೊಹರು ಬಂದ ಲಕೋಟೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಯಂತ್ರೋಪಕರಣವನ್ನು Supply, Installation, Training & Commissioning ಮಾಡಲು ಅನುಭವವುಳ್ಳ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆಗಳಿಂದ ದರಗಳನ್ನು ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದ್ದು, ಸದರಿ ದರಗಳನ್ನು ಈ ಕಛೇರಿಗೆ **ದಿ: 22.12.2025 ರ ಸಂಜೆ: 4.00 ಗಂಟೆಯೊಳಗೆ** ಸಲ್ಲಿಸುವುದು. ಯಂತ್ರೋಪಕರಣವನ್ನು Supply, Installation, Training & Commissioning ಮಾಡುವುದು ಮತ್ತು ಇದರ ಬಗ್ಗೆ ವಿವರವಾದ ಮಾಹಿತಿಯನ್ನು ಪಡೆಯಲು ಕಛೇರಿಯ ಕೆಲಸದ ಸಮಯದಲ್ಲಿ ಬಂದು ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದಾಗಿರುತ್ತದೆ.

ಸಹಿ/– ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಅಭಿಯಂತರರು.
ವಾಸಾಸಂಇ/ಉನಿ–ಸಿ.ಪಿ/4385/ಕೆಎಸ್ಎಂಸಿಎ/2025–26

CAUVERY NEERAVARI NIGAMA LIMITED
(A Govt. of Karnataka Enterprises)
Office of the Executive Engineer,
Manchanabele Project Division,
Bangalore South District, Ramanagara - 562 159.
Phone : 080 - 2978 2259. E-mail : eempdrmgm@gmail.com

Short Term Tender Notification No. : 12/2025-26 Date : 10-12-2025

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION

The CNNL hereby invites **Tender for the Different Kind of Works** Under 4701 Head hrough **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in Portal for Kanakapura Constituency.**

Pre Bid Meeting is on Date : 15-12-2025 at 11.00 a.m., The Tender Submission Last Date : 18-12-2025 at 4.00 p.m., Opening of Technical Bid is on Date : 19-12-2025 at 4.30 p.m., Financial Bid is on Date : 22-12-2025 at 11.00 a.m., E.M.D. Details and More Information can be Downloaded from the Website : https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in Portal.

For further information please visit Office at working hours.

Sd/- Executive Engineer,
C.N.N.L., M. P. Division,
Bangalore South District, Ramanagara.

DIPR/Ramanagar/486/Manipal/2025-26

BENGALURU SMART INFRASTRUCTURE LIMITED (B-SMILE)
Office of the Chief Engineer-02,
Room No.108, Annex-2 Building, N.R. Square, Bengaluru - 560002.

No: B-SMILE/CE-02/TEND/10/2025-26 Date: 11-12-2025

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP)
(Two Cover System) (Through GOK KPP Portal only)

The Chief Engineer-02, B-SMILE, GBA, Bengaluru invites Proposals from eligible Architects & Design Firms / Engineering Firms / Consultancy Agencies who have relevant experience in doing works of similar nature of works detailed below.

Sl. No.	Name of the Work
1	Providing Consultancy Services for Preparation of Detailed Project Report for Construction of Infrastructure Facilities like Shear Wall Multi-Storied Buildings / Mivan Constructions / Conventional Multi-Storied Buildings and Other incidental Development Works in Military Areas of Bengaluru City in Consultation with Military Authorities in lieu of Land Transfer at Bellandur including Structural Design and Drawings. **Estimated Amount of the Project (Rs. in Lakhs): 14800.00, Estimated Cost for Preparation of DPR (Rs. in Lakhs): 75.00, EMD Amount (in Rs.): 75,000/-**
2	Providing Consultancy Services for Preparation of Detailed Project Report for Construction of Infrastructure Facilities like Shear Wall Multi-Storied Buildings / Mivan Constructions / Conventional Multi-Storied Buildings and Other incidental Development Works in Military Areas of Bengaluru City in Consultation with Military Authorities in lieu of Land Transfer at Baiyyappanahalli including Structural Design and Drawings. **Estimated Amount of the Project (Rs. in Lakhs): 2450.00, Estimated Cost for Preparation of DPR (Rs. in Lakhs): 18.50, EMD Amount (in Rs.): 18,500/-**

Calendar of Events: 1) RFP Documents can be downloaded from the GOK Karnataka Public Procurement Portal Website: **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in from 15-12-2025, 16.30 Hours onwards. 2)** Date of Pre Bid Meeting: **22-12-2025 at 15.00 Hours. 3)** Last Date & Time for Receipt of Tenders: **29-12-2025 upto 16.00 Hours. 4)** Date and Time of Opening of Technical Bid: **30-12-2025 at 16.30 Hours. 5)** Date of Opening of Financial Bid: **Will be intimated after obtaining Approval for Technical Evaluation.** Further details can be had from the above office.

Sd/- Chief Engineer-02, B-SMILE, GBA.

BANGALORE WATER SUPPLY AND SEWERAGE BOARD

INVITATION FOR TENDER (Through KPP Portal Only)

BWSSB invite tenders in Two Stage Tender System from Eligible Contractors for the below mentioned works.

Office of The Chief Engineer (WWM-West), 6th Floor, Cauvery Bhavan, KG Road, Bangalore-560009.

Sl. No.	Name of Work	Amount Put to Tender EMD
No. BWSSB/CE(WWM-West)/ACE(WWM-H&A.V-W)/DCE(WWM-E&W)/TA-2/1731/2025-26 Date: 09.12.2025		
1	Providing and laying 800mm dia submain sewer from BDA Shivram Karanth Layout KereGuddadahalli to 5 MLD STP at Chikkabanavara.	Rs. 396.61 Lakhs / Rs. 5.95 Lakhs
No. BWSSB/CE(WWM-West)/ACE(WWM-H&A.V-W)/DCE(WWM-E&W)/TA-2/1733/2025-26 Date: 09.12.2025		
2	Providing and Laying 600mm dia RCC NP-3 Class sewer in place of existing 600mm dia RCC NP-2 class sewer from RMV Club all along 3rd main road to link existing 1200mm dia sewer at 7th main road RMV 2nd stage.	Rs. 146.70 Lakhs / Rs 2.2 Lakhs
No. BWSSB/CE(WWM-West)/ACE(WWM-V.V-W)/DCE(WWM-E&W)/TA-2/1727/2025-26 Date: 09.12.2025		
3	Providing and Laying 800mm dia RCC pipe line from Kamakshipalya Bus Stop to Baleyanakere inside SWD linking to existing 800mm dia pipe line at BalayanaKere.	Rs. 373.30 Lakhs / Rs. 5.60 Lakhs
No. BWSSB/CE(WWM-West)/ACE(WWM-V.V-W)/DCE(WWM-E&W)/TA-2/1729/2025-26 Date: 09.12.2025		
4	Providing and Laying 800mm dia RCC/DWC pipeline from Kaveripura ground to existing 800mm dia pipeline at Baleyanakere, Kamakshipalya, Bengaluru.	Rs. 395.69 Lakhs / Rs. 5.94 Lakhs

For the above works Last date and time for Receipt of tenders will be on **26.12.2025 upto 17.30 hrs**. The Technical bids will be opened on: **29.12.2025 at 11.00 hrs**.

Sd/- Chief Engineer (WWM-West)

The detail regarding the tender & participation in the e-procurement portal process can be obtained by logging on to **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in.** For further details contact the below signed office during working hours.

DIPR/CP/4391/Zen/2025-26

ಹುಬ್ಬಳ್ಳಿ–ಧಾರವಾಡ ನಗರಾಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಪ್ರಾಧಿಕಾರ, ಹುಬ್ಬಳ್ಳಿ
ನವನಗರ, ಹುಬ್ಬಳ್ಳಿ–580 025
0836–2956097, 2224274, 2222161

ಕ್ರ.ಸಂ:ಹು.ಧಾ.ನ.ಪ್ರಾ:ಮೂ.ನಿ/ಬಿ.ನಿ/ಇ–ಹರಾಜು/25–26 ದಿನಾಂಕ :11–12–2025

ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ.

ಹುಬ್ಬಳ್ಳಿ–ಧಾರವಾಡ ನಗರಾಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಪ್ರಾಧಿಕಾರದಿಂದ ಇ–ಹರಾಜ ಅಧಿಸೂಚನೆ **ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ:ಹು.ಧಾ.ನ.ಪ್ರಾ/ಇ.ಹ.ಪ್ರ/2025–26/3924 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 17–11–2025**ರ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆಯನ್ನು **ದಿನಾಂಕ: 19–11–2025** ಹಾಗೂ **20–11–2025** ರಂದು ದಿನಪತ್ರಿಕೆಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ನೀಡಿ, ಸದರಿ ಇ–ಹರಾಜಿನ ಲೈವ್ ಬಿಡ್ಡಿಂಗ್ **ದಿನಾಂಕ: 09–12–2025** ರಂದು **ಬೆಳಿಗ್ಗೆ 11–00 ಗಂಟೆಯಿಂದ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 11–12–2025** ರ **ಸಾಯಂಕಾಲ 4–00 ಗಂಟೆಯವರೆಗೆ** ನಿಗದಿಪಡಿಸಲಾಗಿತ್ತು. ಆದರೆ ಕೆಪಿಪಿಪಿ ತಂತ್ರಾಂಶದಲ್ಲಿ ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಕಾರಣದಿಂದ **ದಿನಾಂಕ: 11–12–2025 ರಂದು** ನೋಂದಾಯಿತ ಬಿಡ್ದಾರರಿಗೆ ಬಿಡ್ ವಾಡಲು ತೊಂದರೆಯಾಗಿದ್ದು, ಕಾರಣ ಸದರಿ ಲೈವ್ ಬಿಡ್ಡಿಂಗ್ನ್ನು ತಾತ್ಕಾಲಿಕವಾಗಿ ಮುಂದೂಡಲು ತೀರ್ಮಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿರುತ್ತದೆ. ಮುಂದಿನ ಲೈವ್ ಬಿಡ್ಡಿಂಗ್ ದಿನಾಂಕವನ್ನು ದಿನಪತ್ರಿಕೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ ಮೂಲಕ ಶೀಘ್ರದಲ್ಲಿ ತಿಳಿಸಲಾಗುವುದು. ಕಾರಣ ಇ–ಹರಾಜಿನಲ್ಲಿ ಭಾಗವಹಿಸಿದ ಬಿಡ್ದಾರರು ಸಹಕರಿಸಬೇಕಾಗಿ ಕೋರುತ್ತೇವೆ.

ಸಹಿ/– ಅಧ್ಯಕ್ಷರು
ಹುಬ್ಬಳ್ಳಿ–ಧಾರವಾಡ ನಗರಾಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಪ್ರಾಧಿಕಾರ, ಹುಬ್ಬಳ್ಳಿ

ಸಹಿ/– ಆಯುಕ್ತರು
ಹುಬ್ಬಳ್ಳಿ–ಧಾರವಾಡ ನಗರಾಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಪ್ರಾಧಿಕಾರ, ಹುಬ್ಬಳ್ಳಿ

ವಾ.ಸಾ.ಇ/ಧಾರವಾಡ/974/ದೇಶಪಾಂಡೆಪಬ್ಲಿಸಿ3/2025–26

UNIVERSITY OF HORTICULTURAL SCIENCES, BAGALKOT
Office of the Estate Officer, Udyanagiri, Near Simikeri By-Pass, Bagalkot –587104

No: SPO/EO/UHSB/TN-211/2025-26 Date: 11-12-2025

SHORT TERM RE-TENDER NOTIFICATION

The University of Horticultural Sciences, Bagalkot is inviting short term re-tender for the Scientific equipments, Laboratory Equipments and materials for the use of various campus of the university. The interested suppliers are requested to participate in the tender online through Karnataka Public Procurement Portal. For more details, please contact Ph.No: 08354-230258 and visit the link https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in for detailed specification, conditions and schedule of events and notification.

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

1	Last date and time for tender queries/ clarification.	16–12–2025	@	14.00 Hrs
2	Last date and time for receipt of tenders.	20–12–2025	@	16.00 Hrs
3	Date and time for opening of Technical Bid	22–12–2025	@	11.00 Hrs
4	Date and time for opening of Financial Bid (if possible)	24–12–2025	@	12.00 Hrs

All bidders shall get updated with corrigendum / addendum received from time to time during the entire tender process by visiting KPP portal.

Sd-ESTATE OFFICER
UHS, BAGALKOT

DIPR/BGK/RO-NO-443/KSMCA/2024-25

Government of Karnataka
Karnataka Public Works, Department, Sirasi Division(U.K), Karnataka Ph: 08384-223164, Fax: 08384-224100

No. PWD/SR./Dn/AE/IFT/3054 SHBridge/2025-26/2724 Date: 09.12.2025

INVITATION FOR TENDERS (IFT) (SHORT TERM) KW-3

e-TENDER NOTIFICATION

(1) The Executive Engineer, PWD Division, Sirasi invites tenders from eligible tenderers, for the construction of works detailed in the Table below. The tenderers may submit tenders for any or all of the works given in the Table. **The price tender which will be opened only if the Tenderer is found to be qualified to execute the tendered works. The Tenderers are advised to note the minimum qualification criteria specified in Clause 3 of the Instructions to Tenderers to qualify for award of the contract. (26.03.2021)** (2) Tender documents may be downloaded from Government of Karnataka e-Procurement website **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in/eportal/index.seam** under login for Contractors: (3) Tenders must be accompanied by EMD Declaration form Proforma attached (4) Tenders must be electronically submitted (on-line through internet) with in the date and time published in e-procurement portal. The technical bid will be opened after prescribed time and date in the eprocurement portal, in the presence of the Tenderers who wish to attend at the Office of the Executive Engineer, PWD Department, SIRSI Division. (5) Other details can be seen in the tender documents

(Total: 1 Work)

(1) Last date and time for Tender Queries/Clarifications: **16-12-2025 up to 16.00.00** (2) Last Date and Time for receipt of tenders: **17-12-2025 up to 16.00.00** (3) Date and Time for opening of Technical Bid: **18-12-2025 @ 16.30.00** (4) Date and Time for opening of Financial Bid: **19-12-2025 @16.00.00**

Sd/- Executive Engineer
Public Work Department Division
Sirsi (Uttara Kannada)

DIPR/ADK/KSMCA/822/25-26 Dt.11.12.2025

BENGALURU WEST CITY CORPORATION
Office of the Executive Engineer, Traffic Engineering Cell,
Rajarajeshwarinagara Division, Near DWCC Remco Layout,
Javaregowdana Doddi Main Road, Rajarajeshwarinagara, Bengaluru-560098.

No: BWCC/EE(TEC)/TEND/01/2025-26 Date: 11-12-2025

INVITATION FOR TENDER (IFT) - (SHORT TERM)
(Two Cover System) (Through GOK KPP Portal only)

The Executive Engineer, Traffic Engineering Cell, Rajarajeshwarinagara Division, BWCC, Bengaluru invites Tender from eligible registered Agencies in any State Government Organization for the Service detailed below.

Sl. No.	Name of the Project
1	Providing Towing Vehicle Complete on hire basis (Including Vehicle, Fuel, Driver and Maintenance of Vehicle) for Bengaluru West City Corporation. **Amount Put to Tender (in Rs.): 2,46,00,000/-, EMD Amount (in Rs.): 3,69,000/-**

Calendar of Events: 1) Tender documents can be downloaded from the GOK Karnataka Public Procurement Portal Website: **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in. 2)** Last Date and Time for Queries (through Online only): **15-12-2025 upto 4.00 PM. 3)** Date & Time of Pre Bid Meeting: **17-12-2025 at 3.00 PM. 4)** Last Date and Time for Receipt of Tenders: **22-12-2025 upto 4.00 PM. 5)** Date of Opening of Technical Bid is **24-12-2025 at 11.00 AM (if possible or next working day). 6)** Date of Opening of Financial Bid: **26-12-2025 at 4.00 PM (if Possible).** Further details can be had from the above office.

Sd/- Executive Engineer,
TEC, Rajarajeshwarinagar Division, BWCC.

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to notify the General Public that my client Mrs. Santosh, W/o Late U. Suresh Kumar, had negotiated for purchase of below mentioned Flat from its owners **Mr. B.K. Gurunath S/o. B.K. Gupta and Mrs. Savitha B.S W/o. B. Sriram,** both are Residing at No. #182, 11th Main, Near Maruti Circle, Hanumanthanagar, Gavi Puram Extension, Bengaluru- 560019

Any person/s, banks/financial sectors/ individual/authorities,Companies, firms, etc., having any claim/s, right, share or interest over the below mentioned flat / property shall file his / her / their/ its objections in writing along with concerned original documents with the undersigned within 07 DAYS from the date of this publication.

Any objection/s on and after 07 days, shall not be entertained and my client shall proceed with the transaction with its above named owners presuming that there are no claim/s of anyone whatsoever over the same.

SCHEDULE

Flat No. F-401, (3-BHK) Fourth Floor, Municipal No. 48/5, constructed in Property No. 438, PID No.52-3-48, situated at Sunkenahalli, presently Tara Subbarao Road, Bengaluru, now comes under GBA (BBMP) limits Ward No. 155 (Hanumanthanagar) having super built-up area of 2020 Square feet with 484 Square feet of un-divided share in the land with right to use common areas such as balconies, terrace, staircase, lifts and all other commonly used places by all the occupants of the apartment building known as "GUPTHA SYMPHONY".

A.N. KRISHNA
Advocate
No. 7, 2nd Floor, Diagonal Road
V.V. Puram, Bengaluru - 560 004

Directorate of AYUSH Odisha, Bhubaneswar
Heads of Department Building, 3rd Floor (Annex), Unit-5, Bhubaneswar-751001
Tel: 0674-2394577, Email: tenderayushodisha@gmail.com , Website: www.ayushodisha.nic.in

EOI Ref. No. 10845 /DAYUSH, Dated- 10/12/2025

NOTICE INVITING EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

Expression of Interest (EOI) are invited from eligible AYUSH Approved Drugs Testing Laboratories under Rule 160-A to J of the Drugs and Cosmetics Rules 1945 read with the Ministry of AYUSH letter no. T-14020/2/2022-DCC, dtd.21.07.2022 for test/analysis of AYUSH drugs (Ayurvedic & Homoeopathic) procured by the Directorate of AYUSH, Odisha.

The EOI document with all information relating to the bidding process including cost of bid document, EMDs, pre-qualification criteria and terms & conditions etc. are available in the website of Directorate of AYUSH, Odisha i.e. **www.ayushodisha.nic.in**. The prospective bidders are requested to visit the website of Directorate of AYUSH for downloading the aforesaid EOI documents as well as for any published notice/ corrigendum etc. against the EOI from time to time. The EOI Authority reserves the right to accept/ reject any part thereof or all the bids without assigning any reason thereof.

Sd/- Anjana Panda, IAS
Director AYUSH

E-585: OIPR-10056/11/0010/2526

ODISHA STATE SEEDS CORPORATION LIMITED
(A GOVERNMENT UNDERTAKING)
SANTARAPUR, BHUBANESWAR- 751002.
Tel-MD 0674- 2340573, E-Mail: mdosscltd456@gmail.com

NIT No.OSSC/Mktg(Hort)-57/2025

Short e-Tender Call Notice for Procurement of Certified Onion Seeds for Rabi - 2025-26

OSSC Ltd. invites short e-Tender only from registered Onion seed producers (and in case of GOI PSUs, their authorized Agencies) on item wise rate contract basis **for Procurement of Certified Onion Seeds for Rabi-2025-26** in double cover system through online mode only for the work below.

Name of the work	**Purchase of Certified Onion Seeds for Rabi-2025-26.**
No of work	**One**
Availability of bid documents in portal	**15.00 hours on dt.12.12.2025 to 17.00 hours of dt.16.12.2025**
Last date of receipt of tender in portal	**17.00 hours of dt.16.12.2025**
Date and time of Opening of Bid	**10.30 hours of dt.17.12.2025**

The detailed descriptions of crops, varieties, quantity, parameters, terms and conditions and other details of tender specified in the tender schedule would be made available in the e-Tender portal **www.tendersodisha.gov.in**. Any addendum/ corrigendum/ cancellation can also be seen in the said website. The Managing Director, OSSC Ltd. reserves the right to accept or reject any or all tenders without assigning any reason thereof.

Sd/- Managing Director, OSSC Ltd.

CAD-2667: OIPR-01045/11/0120/2526

Ph. No. 06670-235504; E_Mail: serwbpt@yahoo.com
GOVT. OF ODISHA
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER,
RURAL WORKS, CIRCLE, BHAWANIPATNA.

Bid Identification No.:- BPT/Online-14/2025-26 Date: 29.11.2025

NOTICE INVITING TENDERS FOR BRIDGE WORKS IN ODISHA
NATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING THROUGH e - Procurement

1. Name of the Work : **Construction of Bridge Works in the District of Nuapada for the year 2024-25.**
2. No of Works : **02 Nos.**
3. Location details : **Nuapada District**
4. Estimated Cost : As per NIT
5. Period of Completion : As per NIT.
6. Cost of tender paper : **Rs.10,000/-** per set
7. Other details :

Availability of tender for online bidding		Last date & time for seeking tender clarification	Date and time of opening of technical bid
From	To		
12.12.2025 11.00 A.M.	30.12.2025 5.00 P.M.	29.12.2025	31.12.2025 at 11.00 A.M.

Further details can be seen from the web site **"www.tendersorissa.gov.in"**

Chief Construction Engineer,
Rural Works Circle, Bhawanipatna.

O-1695: OIPR-25102/11/0036/2526

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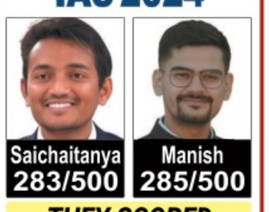

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PERSONAL

CHANGE OF NAME

I,MANJUNATH S/O Nagaraja Doddakunche Chikkegowda R/o No–04 2nd Cross Coconut Garden Mahadeshwaranagara Ramanagar Karnataka–560091 changed my name to MANJUNATH B N.

LOST & FOUND

I, MANJU Sreejith resident of 101, Sri Balajipride apartment, 7th cross, 10th main maruthinagar, Bengaluru. 560075 have lost my passport no.F8838478 issued on 2/8/2006 at kodihalli on 18/10/2025. I have logged a police complaint. If found, Please contact me at 9686145571

PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE REGARDING LOST CERTIFICATE(S) OF TITAN COMPANY LIMITED, Regd Office:3,SIPCOT Industrial Complex,Hosur,Tamil Nadu 635 126. Shares in the name of Girija Aggarwal, (Folio # TWG0022077) the registered holder of the under mentioned shares held in the above said company, hereby give notice that the share certificates in respect of the said shares have been untraceable and we have applied to the company for issue of duplicate certificate(s). Any person having claim in respect of the said shares should lodge such claims with the company at its above referred address within 15 days from this date,else the company will proceed to issue duplicate certificate(s) & no further claim will be entertained by the company thereafter. Cert. no. : 8812; Distinctive No : 20566081-20567160; No of shares : 1080.

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is for notice of the general public that a political party is proposed to be registered by the name of National Farmers Party. The office of the party is located at Building No. 625, KCPMC Ltd. Building, Mannarkayam, Kanjirappally P.O, Kanjirappally - 686507, Kerala. This Party has submitted application to the Election Commission of India, New Delhi for its registration as Political Party under Section 29A of the Representation of People Act, 1951- Names/address of the office-bearers of the Party are as follows:

President/ Chairman :
George J Mathew, 50,
Pottamkulam, 6 Puthenchantha,
Mundakkayam Panchayath,
Kottayam District, Kerala

General Secretary/Secretary :
PM Mathew, 8/489,
Parapurathu paluvelil House,
Kaduthuruthi, Kottayam District, Kerala

Treasurer :
Joseph Micheal, Kallivayalil
House, Kuttikkanam P.O,
Peerumadu, Idukki District, Kerala

If any one has any objection to the registration of National Farmers Party they may send their Objection with reasons thereof, to the Secretary (Political Party) Election Commission of India, Nirvachan Sadan, Ashoka Road, New Delhi 110001- Email-Id: election@eci.gov.in within 30 days of the publication of this notice.

RENTAL

TOLET GROUND floor 400 sq.ft , 1st floor 1200 sq.ft , Rcc bldg 10 HP power available Muddanapalya Main Road 7th Block Vishveshwaraiah Extn Layout Behind Kaasi Medicals Parallel to Mn Road. 7975755891 / 9449772240

CACHE

Why human-rating matters as India prepares for Gaganyaan

Human-rating emerges as a crucial process ensuring that space systems like LVM-3 can safely carry humans by adding redundancy, robust abort capabilities, and rigorous testing; as Gaganyaan approaches, ISRO upgrades and certifies the LVM-3 for human-rating

Unnikrishnan Nair S.

The story so far:
As India moves closer to flying astronauts as part of Gaganyaan, human-rating has emerged as a central but oft-unseen part of the story. Launch vehicles like LVM-3 already fly satellites safely but carrying people demands a lower tolerance for risk and a different way of thinking about failure.

What's the definition of human-rating?
Human-rating is the rigorous engineering and certification process that makes sure a space system, like a launch vehicle or a crew module, can safely carry humans to space. As a result, human-rated systems have an acceptable level of risk.

According to NASA standards, this is a 0.2% chance for a catastrophic event causing loss of crew during the ascent and descent phases of flight.

As part of the human-rating process, engineers attach redundant critical systems, e.g., triple or quadruple redundant flight computers; robust abort capabilities throughout the time of ascent, like the crew escape system; fault tolerance to single failures; and a reliable environmental control and life support system for the crew cabin.

They also exhaustively test, verify, and document far beyond what's required for expendable cargo rockets, all to achieve the stated loss-of-crew probability.

Why is human-rating challenging?
The endeavour of escaping the earth's gravity is much harsher and less forgiving than flying through the atmosphere, like aeroplanes do. In fact, between flying through the atmosphere and entering the vacuum of space, rockets have to accelerate to 28,000kmph in just 8-10 minutes, experience intense vibrations, and withstand high structural loads at the point of maximum dynamic pressure.

A passenger aircraft, on the other hand, can cruise gently for hours through the atmosphere at less than 1,000 kmph with (relatively) large safety margins, can tolerate engine failure without catastrophe, and can glide or divert to an airport during emergencies.

As a result, the most reliable orbital launch vehicles have success rates of around 98-99.5%, whereas commercial airliners have safety records closer to one fatal accident per 10-20 million flights.

Which launch vehicles have been human-rated?
As of today, fully operational human-rated launch vehicles – i.e. those flying crew to earth orbit – are Russia's Soyuz-2, China's Long March 2F, and SpaceX's Falcon 9.

In the U.S., United Launch Alliance's Atlas V rocket completed its crewed test flight in 2024 using the Boeing Starliner crew capsule, but it awaits certification for routine operational crew rotation missions following post-flight technical reviews. NASA's Space Launch System is also human-rated but it has only flown one uncrewed mission, Artemis I, and is currently preparing for its first crewed flight.

Which agency provides human-rating certificates?
In the U.S., NASA grants the final human rating certification, thus authorising the vehicle for crewed flight, particularly where NASA astronauts are involved. For commercial missions like SpaceX's Crew Dragon and Boeing's Starliner, NASA specifies stringent crew safety requirements.

The U.S. Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) also licenses commercial launch operations to protect public safety on the ground but doesn't certify crew safety.

The China Manned Space Agency (CMSA) grants human-rating approval for systems like the Long March 2F and Shenzhou spacecraft. In Russia, Roscosmos is the certifying authority for the long-standing Soyuz rocket and spacecraft.

How often do human-rated launch vehicles succeed?
Russia's Soyuz spacecraft programme has undertaken more than 150 crewed missions since 1967. It has an exceptionally high success rate, about 98%. The programme did suffer two fatal missions early in its history: Soyuz 1 in 1967 and Soyuz 11 in 1971.

However it has been nearly flawless in the current era vis-à-vis delivering crew to orbit. The Soyuz crew escape system successfully saved the lives of cosmonauts in at least three non-fatal launch failures: in 1975, 1983, and 2018. Since the 1971 incident, the crew safety success rate for the Soyuz program has been 100%.

The U.S. Space Shuttle programme completed 135 human space missions from 1981 to 2011 with 133 successes at a rate of 98.5% (133 successful). Its two failures, the Challenger and Columbia disasters in 1986 and 2003 respectively, were the only losses of vehicle and crew. All other flights safely achieved their primary objectives.

The SpaceX Falcon 9 rocket paired with the Crew Dragon spacecraft has achieved a 100% success rate across 20 of its orbital human spaceflights. These NASA Commercial Crew rotations to the International Space Station and private missions, including the Axiom-4 mission that Indian astronaut Subhanshu Shukla piloted.

China's Shenzhou human spaceflight programme, operated by CMSA and launched aboard the Long March 2F rocket, has completed 16 crewed orbital missions with a record of success since its inaugural crewed mission in 2003. However, its flawless run was compromised by the Shenzhou-20 mission in November, when the spacecraft was damaged by space debris. While the crew returned safely aboard the Shenzhou-21 capsule, the damaged Shenzhou-20 capsule was left docked to the Tiangong space station.

Why aren't all launch vehicles human-rated?
Human-rating a launch vehicle is essential to ensure the astronauts' safety but it's technically challenging and more expensive.

The certification process imposes enormous costs because it requires additional systems, rigorous testing, and extensive documentation. These provisions also increase complexity and rocket mass, potentially reducing payload performance and sometimes introducing new modes of failure.

For a cargo mission, the priority is to maximise the mass of the payload (e.g. satellite or supplies) delivered to the desired orbit at the lowest possible cost per kilogram. Adding the mass and complexity of additional systems required for human-rating for a cargo mission would however drive up the price for customers.

Which vehicle is being human-rated for Gaganyaan?
India's maiden human spaceflight programme will use the LVM-3 rocket. The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has upgraded it and it's currently being certified for human-rating. Once it's thus rated, it will be called the HLVM-3 and will be able to carry Indian astronauts into space.

To this end, ISRO has added extra backup systems, made several systems and subsystems more reliable, strengthened the engines, extensively tested and built a fast crew escape system (which can pull the crew module away in case anything goes wrong during launch).

ISRO selected the LVM-3 for Gaganyaan for multiple reasons. The rocket has already proven its merits in seven consecutive successful orbital flights (including the Chandrayaan-3 mission). It's also the most reliable rocket in ISRO's fleet.

The rocket's fully indigenous propulsion stages – two Vikas liquid engines, the C25 cryogenic engine, and the S200 boosters – are also aligned with India's strategic goal to achieve self-reliance in human spaceflight, under its Atmanirbhar Bharat initiative.

Unnikrishnan Nair S. is former director of VSSC and founding director of the Human Space Flight Centre (HSFC), Bengaluru. He is an expert in launch vehicle systems and reentry technologies.

India's maiden human spaceflight programme will use the LVM-3 rocket. FILE PHOTO

FROM THE ARCHIVES

Know your English

S. Upendran

"You look really happy today."

"I have every reason to be. I got 95 in my maths test."

"That's great. How do you plan to..."

"... was math... I mean, was maths ever your favourite subject?"

"No way. Even now I get nightmares thinking about it. By the way, it is not entirely wrong to say 'math'. You see, ..."

"... All my teachers use the word 'maths', not 'math'."

"Everyone in India says 'maths'. That's because we follow the British variety of English. The word 'math', however, is very commonly used in American English."

"So Americans would say, 'I love math', rather than, 'I love maths'."

"That's right. An American would say, 'Usha's father is a math teacher'. We in India would say, 'Usha's father is a maths teacher'."

"I guess it depends on which side of the Atlantic you are from."

"But remember, in India, most people use 'maths'..."

"... so I'd be better off using 'maths', instead of 'math'."

"Exactly!"

"Do Americans say 'mathematic' instead of 'mathematics'?"

"No. When it comes to the full form, both the Americans and the British say 'mathematics'. For example, I hope I don't get a father-in-law who teaches mathematics. Then he would find out how dumb I am."

"That reminds me. Where's your dictionary?"

"It's in the cupboard. What are you looking for?"

"I'll tell you in a minute. Ah! I knew it, I knew it! The plural of 'father-in-law' is 'fathers-in-law'!"

"Yes, but..."

"Subhash kept insisting that it was 'father-in-laws'!"

"She is right!"

"But this dictionary..."

"... that dictionary is more than ten years old. You'll find that most new dictionaries include both 'father-in-laws' and 'fathers-in-law' as the plural of father-in-law."

"So, it's ok to say, 'Fathers-in-law' or 'Father-in-laws'."

"Does the same rule apply to 'mother-in-law', 'sister-in-law', 'daughter-in-law'..."

"Yes, the same rule applies to all these words too. For example, my uncle's sons-in-law/ son-in-laws are in the computer business."

"My uncle is not very happy with his two sons-in-laws/ sons-in-law."

"That's bad. Would you like to have some coffee?"

"I wouldn't mind."

"How much sugar do you take?"

"I take... Sugar! That reminds me – what is the plural form of 'spoonful'?"

"What's the connection between 'sugar' and 'spoonful'?"

"I just remembered that song from the movie Mary Poppins. Remember the line, 'A spoonful of sugar lets the medicine go down'?"

"Oh, yes! I remember. Anyway, coming back to your question, the plural of 'spoonful' can be 'spoonful' or 'spoonfuls'. Both are acceptable.'"

"How about this example? I had ten spoonful/ spoonfuls of castor oil this morning."

"If you had, you wouldn't be sitting with me now!"

Published in The Hindu on December 22, 1998

THE DAILY QUIZ

Please send in your answers to dailyquiz@thehindu.co.in

Superstar Rajinikanth turns 75 today. Here is a quiz on the iconic actor and his films

S. Venkataraghavan

QUESTION 1
Who was the producer of the only Hollywood film in which superstar Rajinikanth acted?

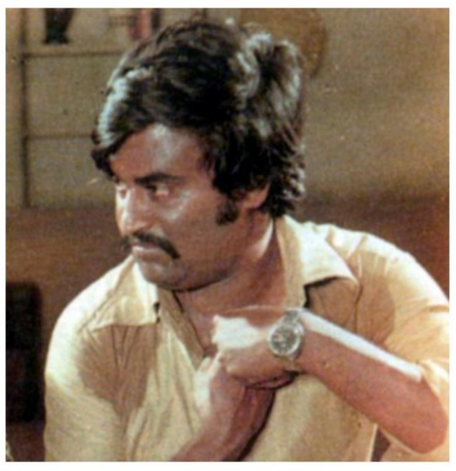
QUESTION 2
Who were the heroines of the Hindi films starring Rajinikanth, *Gair Kanooni*, *Bhagwan Dada*, and *ChaalBaaz*?

QUESTION 3
Which film marked the 100th milestone in Rajinikanth's career?

QUESTION 4
Name the heroine who has acted in the highest number of films with Rajinikanth.

QUESTION 5
The 1981 film *Tik Tik Tik*, directed by Bharathiraja, featured Kamal Haasan in the role of a photographer alongside multiple heroines and included hit songs such as *Idhu Oru Nila Kaalam*, *Poo Malarinthida*, and *Netru Indha Neram*. Since this is a quiz on Rajinikanth, what is the connection between this film and him?

QUESTION 6
Name the first film of Rajinikanth produced under the AVM Productions banner, and name the producer.



Visual Question:
Which Rajinikanth starrer, based on a serialised novel (that appeared in Kalki 1966) by Uma Chandran and directed by J. Mahendran (debut), is regarded as a major turning point in his acting career? THE HINDU ARCHIVES

Questions and Answers to the previous day's daily quiz: 1. A 1949 drawing from one of its young beneficiaries, meant as a thank-you note for supplying milk to her village, became the organisation's first greeting card. What did the painting depict? **Ans: The creation by seven-year-old Dzitka Samkova from then Czechoslovakia featured children dancing around a maypole.**

2. In 1953, certain words were dropped from the organisation's official name. Which two words were removed? **Ans: International" and "Emergency"**

3. UNICEF was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in which year? **Ans: 1965**

4. In the 1970s, UNICEF partnered with the Government of India and the World Health Organization to develop the world's most widely used hand pump in response to severe droughts affecting rural India. **Ans: India Mark II**

5. In the early 1980s, UNICEF 'took blame' when the U.S. announced plans to withdraw from another UN body. What negative impact did this create? **Ans: UNICEF experienced a decline in donations because donors confused it with UNESCO.**

6. In 1989, UN members adopted this resolution. **Ans: Convention on the Rights of the Child**

7. This UNICEF-proposed humanitarian concept proposed safe spaces for child welfare within conflict zones. **Ans: The body's promotion of 'children as a zone of peace' inspired a temporary ceasefire for three 'days of tranquillity' during the Salvadoran civil war in 1985 to allow mass immunisation of children.**

Visual: This woman is one of UNICEF's earliest Goodwill Ambassadors and a Hollywood actress. **Ans: Audrey Hepburn**

Early Birds: Siddhartha Viswanathan | Tamal Biswas | Piyali Tuli | Arun Kumar Singh | Suchit Narottam

Word of the day

Conflation:
the act of putting two or more things or ideas together

Synonyms: combination, blend, merging

Usage: *The error happened due to a conflation of reports.*

Pronunciation: newsth.live/conflationpro

International Phonetic Alphabet: /kənfleɪʃən/

For feedback and suggestions for Text & Context, please write to **letters@thehindu.co.in** with the subject 'Text & Context'

Four IT companies to deploy 2L Microsoft Copilot licences: Nadella

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Microsoft Chairperson and CEO Satya Nadella announced strategic partnerships with four leading IT companies – Cognizant, Infosys, TCS and Wipro – as they join forces with Microsoft to accelerate the adoption of agentic AI.

On December 11, while addressing an audience of developers and AI experts as part of his AI India tour, at Whitefield in Bengaluru, Mr. Nadella said, "These companies are building deep AI factories."

"These firms would emerge as 'frontier firms' with Microsoft deploying Copilot and agentic AI across their diverse operations. Each of these companies will deploy over 50,000 Microsoft Copilot licences, collectively surpassing 200,000 licences, and setting a new benchmark for enterprise-scale AI adoption.

"By embedding AI into core operations, these organisations are becoming 'frontier firms' – not merely adopting AI but redesigning their workflows around human-agent collaboration to deliver high-value outcomes and measurable impact across functions such as delivery, sales, finance, HR, and customer engagement."

He said that Microsoft was joining hands with the four leading IT companies to deploy Microsoft 365 Copilot and transform the way organisations operate, innovate, and scale. This collaboration was enabling enterprises to enhance productivity, efficiency, and accessibility while driving AI-powered innovation across industries.

With AI at the heart of operations, these firms are setting new benchmarks for productivity, innovation, and enterprise transformation, according to Microsoft.

This announcement comes a day after Microsoft announced its plans to invest $17.5 billion in cloud and artificial intelligence (AI) infrastructure, skilling and ongoing operations in India over four years.

Officials passing flawed preventive detention orders despite guidelines, says HC

The court issued guidelines to stop recurrence of simple mistakes, leading to release of detenu on technical grounds, in such detention orders

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The High Court of Karnataka has said that it is a matter of great concern that officers of the State government are continuing to pass flawed preventive detention orders under the 'Goonda Act' despite a series of guidelines issued by the court to stop recurrence of simple mistakes, leading to release of detenu on technical grounds, in such detention orders.

"Unfortunately nothing seems to have changed" even though the verdict containing 13-point guidelines, issued by the court way back in 2019, was directed to be circulated to the Additional Chief, Home Department, the Principal Secretaries of the Department of Law and the Revenue; the Director-General and Inspector-General of Police, Secretary, Department of Parliamentary Affairs, and to all the Commissioners of Police, Deputy Commissioners of each district and Superintendents of Police, the court noted.

A Division Bench comprising Justice R. Devdas and Justice B. Puralidhara Pai made these observations while setting aside the preventive detention order passed by the Commissioner of Police, Hubballi-Dharwad on June 3, 2025, detaining Dawood Nadaf of Hubballi. His wife, Prathiba Talapati, had filed the petition challenging the detention order.

The detention order was passed under the provisions of the Karnataka Prevention of Dangerous Activities of Bootleggers, Drug Offenders, Gamblers, Goondas, Immoral Traffic Offenders, Slum Grabbers and Video or Audio Pirates Act, 1985 (commonly known as Goonda Act).

"Cyclostyled (preventive detention) orders are being passed by the detaining authorities. Illegible copies of the documents are furnished without translations," the Bench said, while pointing out that one of the guidelines was to ensure that legible copies of documents are given to the detenu as the court in 2019 itself had noted that several detention orders were quashed for non-supply legible copies of documents along with detention order.

"Unfortunately, neither the government nor the authorities concerned have heeded to the directions issued by this court. What we see as a consequence of such failure is that similar grounds are raised in every writ petition challenging such detention orders, viz., supplying illegible copies to the detenu," the Bench observed while pointing out that in the present case, the 185 pages were illegible among the 800-page documents given to the detenu along with the detention order.

From Page One

Cabinet rider for big ticket events at Chinnaswamy stadium

Chinnaswamy stadium is the home ground for the reigning champions RCB, which won its first trophy in the 2025 edition.

A senior Minister said that the government decided to permit sporting activities that attract thousands only after safety guidelines and standard operating procedures recommended by the commission is followed.

"The onus is now on the association to comply with the guidelines. We have not set any deadline. It is up to them," he said.

The commission, which was set up after 11 fans were killed outside the stadium during the victory celebrations of RCB on June 4, has raised safety issues pertaining to design, among things, at the stadium.

Overstay parking charges come into effect at KIA

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The new lane segregation system at the pick-up zone at the Kempegowda International Airport (KIA) in Bengaluru came into effect on Thursday.

As of now, the new measures and overstay charges at the arrival kerbside have been implemented only at Terminal 2 of the airport.

The Bangalore International Airport Limited (BIAL), which operates the KIA, said that the new rules would come into force at Terminal 1 from December 13.

The new lane segregation system at the pick-up zone in front of the two terminals was supposed to be implemented from December 8, but was deferred by a couple of days due to disruptions of IndiGo flights.

"Following the stabilisation of the recent flight disruptions, the KIA will proceed with the implementation of the new pick-up measures and overstay charges at the arrival kerbsides, effective Thursday at Terminal 2 and Saturday at Terminal 1. These measures are designed to streamline kerbside movement and enhance the overall landside experience for passengers and airport stakeholders, and we appreciate the continued support and cooperation of all partners during this transition," said a BIAL spokesperson.

According to the BIAL, the airport would give eight minutes of free use of the zone for all the users, beyond which ₹150 would be charged for overstay from eight to 13 minutes, and ₹300 for 13 to 18 minutes. Any vehicle overstaying beyond 18 minutes would be towed to the nearest police station, and applicable fines and towing charges would be levied.

It said that the enhanced pick-up measures would be introduced to streamline passenger movement, reduce congestion, and improve safety, discipline, and overall convenience at arrival areas in the airport.

Waste management has improved as segregation reaches 55%: BSWML

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Bangalore Solid Waste Management Limited (BSWML) said on Thursday that the city's waste segregation has improved to 55% following a series of measures undertaken to streamline the handling of solid waste in the city limits.

The agency has requested households to segregate waste into wet, dry, and household hazardous sanitary categories, and has started awareness campaigns across all wards. As part of the initiative, two workers have been deployed in each ward to educate residents on the importance of segregation. The agency is also conducting Information, Education and Communication (IEC) programmes and has assigned dedicated primary collection vehicles to separately collect wet and dry waste.

According to officials, the improved segregation has helped reduce the burden on landfills

Fines levied

Officials said fines were being levied on households and establishments that fail to segregate waste or dump trash. According to the BSWML, the improved segregation has helped reduce the burden on landfills. Since October 14, the agency has been sending low-value plastic from legacy waste to a power generation unit. Initially, 18 tonnes of such plastic was transported daily, this has now increased to 300 to 350 tonnes transported in 60 to 70 compactors.

In October, the city disposed of 11.99 lakh tonnes of low-value plastic, and the figure rose to 67.26 lakh tonnes in November, the officials said.

Discussion on digital security today

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Synergia Foundation, a think-tank based in Bengaluru, will convene a Digital Security and National Sovereignty Roundtable on Friday in Bengaluru as part of its technology initiative.

According to a communique from the foundation, the roundtable is aimed to be a platform for high-level policy dialogue on how best to secure the digital space and will explore approaches to strengthening the digital domain through integrated governance, resilient infrastructure, and enhanced global cooperation. The event will include discussions on digital security, tech-induced challenges, and national security implications among others.

Experts

The roundtable will also bring together experts in digital security and national sovereignty, academia, and industry. Some of the speakers include M. Nagaraju, Secretary, Department of Financial Services; Pankaj Aggarwal, Secretary of Power; Satish Reddy, former Chairman, DRDO, among others.

Wildlife smuggling attempt foiled at KIA

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Customs officials at the Kempegowda International Airport (KIA) thwarted a wildlife smuggling attempt on Wednesday, arresting a passenger from Bangkok after two red-shanked douc monkeys were found concealed in his check-in baggage. The primates, classified as an endangered species and protected under international wildlife laws, were rescued and handed over to animal welfare authorities. .

Researchers highlight role of digital tools in strengthening campus mental health systems

Afshan Yasmeen
BENGALURU

Even as technology gains ground globally as a key enabler of student mental-health support, India's higher education system is yet to fully tap its potential. Highlighting this, a recent publication by a team of researchers from NIMHANS has called for a more strategic, evidence-informed approach to integrating digital tools into campus mental-health services.

The paper, authored by Seema Mehrotra, professor of clinical psychology at NIMHANS, and colleagues, has been published in the Online Journal of Public Health Informatics.

The researchers identified a series of hurdles that impede wider adoption of digital mental-health solutions - ranging from limited evidence from low- and middle-income countries and low levels of digital literacy, to the proliferation of unregulated apps, linguistic diversity among users, and difficulties in sustaining user engagement.

Need for clear policy

They stressed that higher education institutions must put in place clear policies on data governance, privacy and confidentiality, and ensure transparency around digital offerings. Digital platforms, they caution, should supplement human-led services rather than be viewed as substitutes.

Noting students' comfort with technology and its ease of access, the paper highlighted the role of digital tools within stepped-care models, where credible self-help resources can address milder well-being concerns while increasing levels of human guidance and professional support are made available for more complex needs.

Effective implementation, the authors pointed out, requires built-in features such as algorithm-driven nudges that encourage help-seeking when needed, clear crisis-support pathways, integration with offline services, and transparent communication about what digital and in-person interventions can and cannot offer.

"Our paper also mapped a broad landscape of potential applications for technology-enabled platforms," Dr. Mehrotra told *The Hindu*.

"These include training institutional leaders and teachers on student-support practices, developing repositories of credible information for students, providing anonymous self-screening tools, hosting moderated peer-support spaces, offering minimally guided self-help programmes, conducting targeted outreach to distressed students who are not seeking professional help, enabling blended care models that integrate digital self-help with therapy sessions, and improving access to tele-helplines during crises," she said.

Importantly, the authors pointed to several actions required at the policy level. These include formulation of national guidelines for mental-health app developers, creation of user-guidance tools, etc.

The paper called for higher public investment, dedicated budget lines for student mental health, exploration of blended-finance models, and long-term implementation-effectiveness research to understand how digital mental-health systems can be meaningfully integrated into mainstream services.

The paper concluded that when thoughtfully embedded within campus ecosystems, technology can widen access, reduce stigma and enhance efficiency in student mental-health care. Meaningful progress, however, will require sustained research investment, robust national policy frameworks, etc., it said.

BENGALURU NORTH CITY CORPORATION
Office of the Executive Engineer, Dasarahalli Division,
Yelahanka Zone - 2, MEI Layout, Bagalagunte,
Hesaraghatta Main Road, Bengaluru - 560073.

No: B.N.C.C/EE/DD/TEN/01/2025-26 Date: 11-12-2025

CORRIGENDUM - 02

Sub: Regarding Correction of Date in Tender Notification.

Ref.: 1) This Office KPP Portal Tender Notification No: B.N.C.C/EE/D.D/TEN/1/2025-26 Date: 18-11-2025.

With reference to the above subject the tender has been invited as per notification and due to the Technical Reason the dates in the Tender Notification as been postponed. The last date for submitting the tender, opening of the Technical and Financial bids have been revised, the details are as follows.

Revised Time Schedule: **1)** Tender must be submitted online through e-procurement KPPP portal on **19-12-2025 before 16.00 hours. 2)** Last Date for the submission for the tender Query is **15-12-2025 before 16.0 hours. 3)** Pre Bid Meeting to be held on **17-12-2025 at 15.00 hours** at the Office of Chief Engineer Dasarahalli Zone, MEI Layout, Hesaraghatta Main Road, Bagalgunte, T. Dasarhalli Bangalore - 560073. **4)** Technical Bids will be opened on the website **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** the office of the Executive Engineer, Dasarahalli Division, BNCC on or after **20-12-2025 at 16.30 hours**.

Sd/- Executive Engineer, Dasarahalli Division, Yelahanka Zone, BNCC.

When the urban expanse and the jungle meet

Harsh realities: Increasing urbanisation, metro construction, rising traffic, and pollution are pushing wildlife out of their natural spaces, and leading to more conflicts and injuries in Bengaluru. K. MURALI KUMAR

Bengaluru is among the few cities in India surrounded by two protected areas. But calls for animal rescue have increased as the expanding city is pushing out urban wildlife from their natural habitats, writes **K.C. Deepika**

It is around 11 a.m. on a winter day. In an inconspicuous, quiet sanctuary near a mammoth, well-known hospital complex at Kengeri in west Bengaluru, it is feeding time for three babies – a bonnet macaque, an Indian palm squirrel, and a scaly-breasted munia.

A volunteer carefully carries the bonnet macaque, wrapped in cloth, in one arm and feeds the animal with a syringe. Another volunteer brings out crates with the squirrel and the bird, and feeds them tiny amounts of food one by one.

These animals, along with several others being rehabilitated at the People for Animals (PfA) Wildlife Hospital, were rescued from in and around Bengaluru.

Increasing urbanisation, metro construction, rising traffic, and pollution are pushing wildlife out of their natural spaces, and leading to more conflicts and injuries in Bengaluru. Rescue centre personnel in the city, as well as experts, say that the number of rescue calls has gone up in recent times.

Navaz Shariff, General Manager and Chief Wildlife Veterinarian, PfA Wildlife Hospital, Bengaluru, said, "The number of urban wildlife rescue calls in and around Bengaluru has been increasing. We also receive many manja-related cases, as glass-coated kite threads continue to be used and seriously harm birds. In addition, habitat loss, reduced tree cover, and shrinking wetlands are forcing animals to enter residential areas more often".

"On the positive side, public awareness has improved. More people now know how to report injured wildlife, which also contributes to the rise in rescue calls," he said.

Spot of bother: In recent years, encounters with leopards have also become increasingly frequent. FILE PHOTO

Species rescued and hotspots

"We receive rescue reports for a wide variety of animals, but the most commonly reported species are black kites and snakes. So far, we have rescued around 11,000 black kites, and the majority of these cases are owing to manja injuries. We have responded to approximately 12,000 snake cases, mainly involving spectacled cobras and rat snakes. Other animals rescued include around 4,000 three-striped palm squirrels and about 3,000 bonnet macaques (as of October 2025)," said Shariff.

Ashritha Carlo, Senior Veterinarian, Avian and Reptile Rehabilitation Centre (ARRC), also said there has been a steady year-on-year rise in rescue calls, and the increase this year has been particularly significant.

She too said a major contributor has been manja-related casualties. "In October alone, cases rose by 89%, and by 54% in November compared to the previous year. In 2025, we have already rescued over 8,000 animals, of which nearly 3,000 are manja cases. By comparison, in 2024, we rescued 7,880 animals, including 2,646 manja victims."

Carlo said that the extended Dasara break led to unusually high kite-flying, coinciding with the breeding season of black kites, a time when adults repeatedly fly into dense canopies and tall structures while nest-building and feeding chicks, making them especially vulnerable to entanglement. "This year, manja injuries have been recorded in species we rarely encounter, such as booted eagles, mottled wood owls, black-headed ibises, and greater cormorants."

Collision-related injuries have increased, particularly among migratory birds, she said. Over the past two months, species including fork-tailed drongo cuckoos, Indian pittas, button-quails, grey-bellied cuckoos, blue-capped rock thrushes, and blue rock thrushes were brought in after striking reflective or transparent glass structures.

> On the positive side, public awareness has improved. More people now know how to report injured wildlife, which also contributes to the rise in rescue calls
>
> **NAVAZ SHARIFF,** General Manager and Chief Wildlife Veterinarian, PfA Wildlife Hospital

Trunk call: Bengaluru's fringes continue to support an ensemble of tigers, leopards, dholes, elephants, gaurs, sambars, and other large mammals. FILE PHOTO

Guidelines

- Keep distance and stay calm.Do not feed, give water, or touch the animal unnecessarily
- If it's safe, gently cover the animal with a cloth and place it in a ventilated cardboard box until help arrives
- Do not use sticks, take selfies, or attempt to handle wildlife, especially snakes or birds of prey — many people get bitten or scratched this way

ARRC also observed more large mammals straying into the city. Several spotted deer were rescued from temples, highways, and wells.

The major hotspots in Bengaluru with the highest volume of calls, Shariff said, are Rajarajeshwari Nagar, Vijayanagar, Jayanagar, Kengeri, J.P. Nagar, and Rajajinagar. "These areas have dense human activity, rapid development, and shrinking natural spaces, which increases interactions between people and wildlife – and in turn, rescue calls," he added.

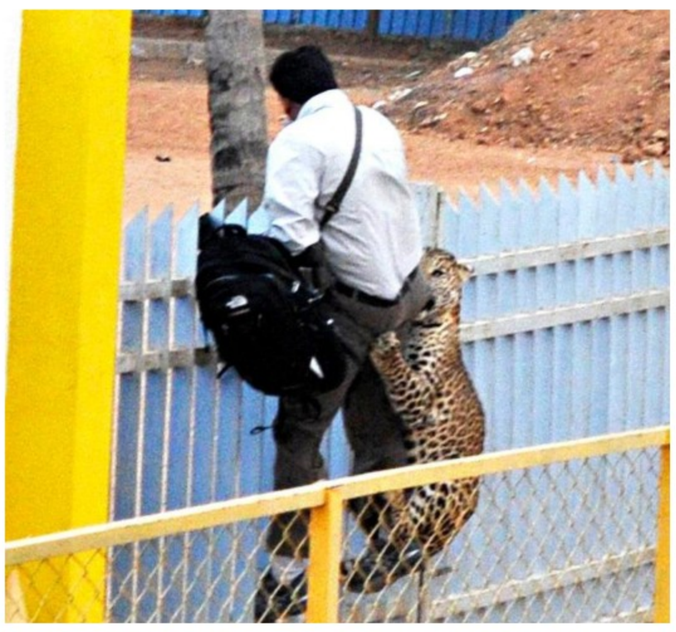
Subiksha Venkatesh, Lead Rehabilitator from ARRC, added that birds dominate rescues: black kites, barn owls, crows, barbets, bulbuls, and mynas, as well as waterbirds such as pond herons and night herons.

"Their prevalence reflects both their abundance in urban areas and the threats they face," she said.

"Neighbourhoods such as Shivajinagar, Cubbon Park, Lalbagh, Austin Town, Ulsoor, Jayanagar, R.T. Nagar, and Hebbal record some of the highest cases. These areas have a combination of heavy human density and activity, buildings, dense tree cover, and open spaces – all of which contribute to higher human-wildlife interactions," she pointed out.

Co-incidentally, according to a year-long camera-trap survey by Holématthi Nature Foundation (HNF), led by conservation biologist Sanjay Gubbi, the forests and scrublands around Bengaluru have an estimated 80-85 wild leopards, and the city surpasses Mumbai's documented population of around 54 leopards.

The foundation not only stated that Bengaluru is a large metropolis with the highest known number of free-ranging big cats, but also the only metro whose fringes continue to support an ensemble of tigers, leopards, dholes, elephants, gaur, sambar and other large mammals.



Major hotspots: The places with the highest volume of rescue calls are Rajarajeshwarinagar, Vijayanagar, Jayanagar, Kengeri, J.P. Nagar, and Rajajinagar. FILE PHOTO

Beyond the large carnivores

Urban wildlife is often mistaken to be limited to leopards, snakes and kites, but experts tell you to look out for more commonly spotted ones that are often ignored.

"Historically, the city has been home to a diverse range of wildlife. For instance, there is a 10th-century monument inside the Indian Institute of Science campus, known as a 'Huli bete' veeragallu, a hero stone commemorating the slaying of a tiger. In recent years, encounters with leopards have also become increasingly frequent. However, urban wildlife should not just evoke images of large carnivores. The smaller creatures, such as the harmless shrew, the barn owl that catches rodents at night, the squirrel that scurries across our balcony, the shrieking call of the slender loris, or the house crow, are all forms of urban wildlife," said Seshadri K.S., ecologist and faculty member at the Ashoka Trust for Research in Ecology and the Environment, Bengaluru.

While some species have adapted to living among humans, much of urban wildlife today is confined to parks, wetlands, and institutional campuses, which are the remnants of green spaces in the city, he said.

Bengaluru's unique position

The vast range of urban wildlife in Bengaluru can be attributed to its unique positioning. "Bengaluru is among the few cities in India that are surrounded by two protected areas: the Bannerghatta National Park to the south and the newly formed Hessarghatta Grassland Conservation Reserve, in the north," said Seshadri.

Shariff adds that Bengaluru also stands out because its urban growth and environmental changes are still accelerating, unlike many other large cities where expansion has slowed.

"The city's population, now estimated at over 14 million, is rising every year and contributing to increasing traffic, construction pressure, and pollution. Rapid urbanisation has also led to a sharp decline in natural spaces. Studies show Bengaluru's built-up area has more than doubled over the last three decades, while tree cover and urban forest patches continue to shrink. As the city continues to grow rapidly, natural habitats are being disturbed and fragmented, leading to more displaced wildlife and more human-animal interactions," he said.

T.V. Ramachandra from the Center of Ecological Sciences, Indian Institute of Science, expanded on this: "Unplanned urbanisation leading to urban expansion – encroaching buffer zones of eco-sensitive regions such as Bannerghatta National Park and Cauvery Sanctuary – and decline in the animal habitat is the prime reason for human-animal conflicts. Too many townships, industries, roads, mining, and dumping of city solid wastes, in the buffer zones have fragmented animal habitats. Naturally, animals stray into human habitations in search of food, fodder and water. Almost 87% of the city landscape is covered with paved surfaces apart from urban sprawl happening in the buffer zones."

Encroachments, conflicts and challenges

Those living around Bannerghatta National Park, and those fighting for its conservation, raised alarm about the threats faced by the park.

"Man-animal conflict around Bannerghatta National Park has significantly increased in recent years. There have been multiple instances of leopard deaths and frequent leopard sightings, including sightings of leopards with cubs near human settlements. Elephants have been raiding ragi fields, leading to substantial crop loss. There have been fatal encounters with elephants, resulting in human deaths. There have been instances of Indian bison straying into layouts, destroying property and coming into direct contact with residents," said a member of the Bannerghatta Nature Conservation Trust.

The rise in conflict is largely owing to increasing anthropogenic pressure around the protected area, the member said.

"The key reasons include lack of enforcement in the Eco-Sensitive Zone (ESZ). The ESZ Monitoring Committee has not regularly audited or monitored violations. Although the ESZ was finally notified in 2020, the required Zonal Master Plan is still not prepared, leading to unplanned and unregulated land use. Parts of the ESZ have been reduced in order to accommodate development and commercial interests, shrinking buffer zones essential for wildlife safety," said the member.

He pointed to unapproved real estate developments coming up right along the boundary of the national park, and in pockets inside areas such as Ragihalli and Shivanahalli, as well as projects like the Peripheral Ring Road (PPR) and the Gottigere-Begur Business Corridor fragmenting wildlife corridors and shrinking the ESZ.

Ramachandra called for immediate action: decongesting Bengaluru, and stopping 'illogical projects'.

On the other hand, Seshadri termed urbanisation an ongoing process. "A few years ago, my colleagues and I studied how the rock agama is disappearing from the city, and we found that the presence of rocks and temperature were important drivers. Whatever rock agamas are left, often get crushed on the road by passing vehicles. Recently, we examined the status of amphibians in the city and found 11 species across the city. Interestingly, we did not find a sharp difference in the number of species between the wetlands in the city centre and those far away. However, we documented signs of degradation, with wetlands contaminated by sewage and garbage strewn around," he said, offering an example.

The point is, he said, urbanisation cannot be stopped. What we need to do is step up and plan our cities better, making them liveable not merely in terms of better roads and clean air, but also putting in the effort to ensure the integrity of our ecosystems is not compromised.

Misconceptions

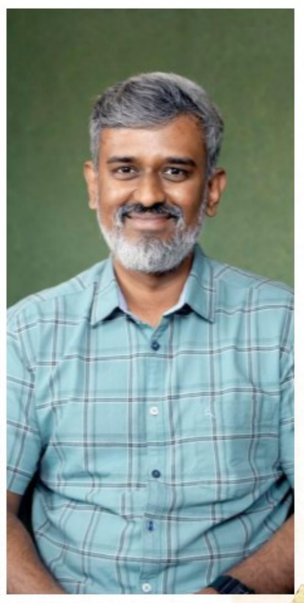
Rescuers say that ultimately, protecting urban wildlife requires a shift in mindset – one grounded in co-existence.

"Misconceptions also shape perceptions of certain species. Bats and owls are often feared as carriers of disease, or seen as bad omens, when in fact they play a vital role in controlling insects, pollinating plants, and dispersing seeds. Snakes, meanwhile, often trigger panic because of the fear of bites. Snakes generally avoid humans and will flee if given the chance, all while helping to control rodent populations," said Subiksha.

Overall, the biggest misconception is that these animals are a threat or don't belong in cities – but they are an important part of the urban ecosystem. "As natural spaces shrink, animals are adapting to survive, and coexistence is both possible and necessary," concluded Shariff.

No filters, just fire

Join The Hindu's Kannada Cinema Roundtable on December 19 at Manheim Craft Brewery. Hear fresh perspectives from directors Punith Rangaswamy and JP Thuminad, actors Shaneel Gautham and Chaithra J Achar, and critic Kairam Vaashi



Hello, hello (Clockwise from left)Kairam Vaashi, Shaneel Gautham, Punith Rangaswamy, JP Thuminad and Chaitra J Achar. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Vivek MV
vivek.mv@thehindu.co.in

Mainstream films often suffer from the curse of the second half. After an engaging first half, a great plot goes down the drain. For Kannada cinema, the trend has reversed in the last couple of years. After a lull in early 2025, the industry has bounced back, delivering blockbusters and generating fresh talent.

Kantara: Chapter 1 has emerged as the year's biggest blockbuster, while *Su From So* took everyone by surprise, racing to the 100-crore club. The industry saw local talents breaking boundaries and doing well in other language industries. Chaithra J Achar's debut Tamil performance, *3BHK,* received acclaim, giving her the confidence to venture into more challenging projects.

The industry also saw two directors – Punit Rangaswamy with the terrific thriller, *Elumale,* and JP Thuminad with the hilarious *Su From So,* make their debuts.

Shaneel Gautham, who starred in *Su From So,* co-wrote Rishab Shetty's *Kantara: Chapter 1.* Joining these four in *The Hindu's* Kannada Cinema Roundtable will be Kairam Vaashi, well-known film critic, known for his long, free-wheeling chats with the who's who of the industry, as well as his eagerly awaited reviews.

The roundtable has been an annual event from The Hindu since 2023. This time, unlike previous editions, you can join us and also ask your questions. In line with our traditional format, the round table will feature artistes speaking about their journey through 2025, followed by a Q&A session.

"To see my thoughts come alive on screen was an unforgettable moment," says Shaneel, reflecting his joy at being part of the writing team of *Kantara: Chapter 1.* "2025 was a life-altering year for me," says filmmaker Punit, basking in the success of *Elumale.*

We meet at the Mannheim Craft Brewery Whitefield, which is sprawled over an acre, offering a relaxing expanse of greenery along with 17 beers on tap. "Evenings at Mannheim Craft Brewery have a rhythm of their own–sometimes buzzing with lively exchange, sometimes settling into quiet reflection, but always held together by good company," says Naveen Menon, CEO & Co-Founder, Mannheim Craft Brewery. He adds, "We're honoured to host The Hindu Lit for Life Unplugged, a property we deeply admire for the thoughtful conversations and literary spirit it brings into our space."

The event is presented by the all-new Kia Seltos in association with CHRIST (Deemed to be University) and NITTE Meenakshi Institute of Technology. Associate Partner is Akshayakalpa Organic. The bookstore partner is Crosswords.

We have limited seats, so sign up now to find out what goes into making a 100-crore blockbuster, writing a pan-Indian project and giving a memorable performance on screen.

The Hindu's Kannada Cinema Roundtable, part of The Hindu's Lit for Life Unplugged, takes place on December 19 at 6pm. Entry is free but you must register ahead – the programming is on us, the drinks are on you.

Limited seating, scan here to register

Beckoning inwards

Flow up Yamini Muthanna rehearsing for *Kundalini.* SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Ruth Dhanaraj
ruth.dhanaraj@thehindu.co.in

Danseuse and yoga practitioner Yamini Muthanna will be presenting *Kundalini*, a dance musical, this weekend. "*Kundalini* is an experiential concept, it is not often danced to. I have put equal hours of study and practise to yoga and Bharatnatyam, and *Kundalini* is a combination of both," says Yamini.

"During my practise of almost 52 years, I have realised there is a link between the two. I conceived this idea to give a visual presentation of what one feels at the awakening of this high energy within the body," she says, adding the ideation of this musical has been five years in the making.

Yamini says the music for this production is tantra based, and she will be accompanied by a live orchestra. She will be employing an aerial hammock to depict the descent of the Kundalini.

Kundalini by Yamini Muthanna will be presented at Medai The Stage, Bengaluru, on December 12, from 7.45pm. Tickets available on Ticket9

Tuning in

Revolving around the sixth sense found in Nature, Echoes of Earth 2025 is back in the city this weekend with music and fun

Heal the world Scene from a previous edition of Echoes of Earth. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Ruth Dhanaraj
ruth.dhanaraj@thehindu.co.in

Echoes of Earth, one of the greenest musical events in the country is back in Bengaluru. Titled Sixth Sense, this eighth edition of the festival centres around the innate ability of all living beings to adapt and survive.

To be held on December 13 and 14, Echoes 2025 will see as many as 30 artistes and bands, from India and abroad, coming together. Apart from regular performers, the event is a chance to catch lesser-known acts such as Stavroz from Belgium, the Vilnius Jazz Ensemble from Lithuania and Badfocus from Czechoslovakia, among others.

Bengaluru-based artiste Tanvi Bajaj, who has been attending Echoes from its inception, will be playing there this year with Nandita Bora, whose stage name is Delika.

"The festival is one of my favorite things to look forward to at the end of the year. It is definitely one of the most picturesque festivals; a treat for one's ears and eyes. Of course, returning this year as an artiste playing on the lineup feels nostalgic as well as powerful."

"I've been a regular concert-goer at Echoes of Earth since 2018. But, playing at Echoes of Earth is a pinnacle in every DJ's career. It feels surreal, full-circle, and honestly, a bit magical," says Nandita.

Though Tanvi and Delika are known for their hypnotic techno and electronic music, they will be presenting a slightly different, friendlier vibe to go with their day-time slot at the festival.

Harshita Sethi, who goes by Sage when on stage, has a range that spans breaks, acid, house and electro, and Swill be "playing a bunch of different sounds at Echoes this year. My set will be about how these sounds come together to form an experience, and do not fall into a particular genre."

Harshita attended four Echoes as a concert-goer in the six years she resided in Bengaluru. Currently based out of Delhi, the artiste says, "My friends and I would look forward to it all year. Over the years, Echoes has created a culture that is sustainable. I believe it is important to acknowledge what festivals like this are trying to do."

Echoes of Earth, which is a pet-friendly event, will also host workshops for children and a flea market, among other programs at the venue.

Echoes of Earth will be held at Embassy International Riding School on December 13 and 14. Tickets starting at ₹3299 available on District

Let's Go Birding, a bird-themed stamp exhibition by philatelist Ramu M Srinivasa, showcases nearly 2,300 different species of our feathered friends

You've got birdmail

Preeti Zachariah
preeti.zachariah@thehindu.co.in

A medley of chirrups, hoots, squawks, caws, coos and trills greet me at the Indian Institute of World Culture in Basavanagudi, where 'Let's Go Birding', a bird-themed stamp exhibition, is being held. Playing the bird-calls of around 139 birds on a loop is an attempt to make the viewing experience more immersive, explains exhibition's curator Ramu M Srinivasa, as he leads me past a dizzying array of frames, containing bird-themed stamps, postcards and miniature sheets, all from his personal collection.

These include a sheet of Salim Ali-themed stamps issued on March 20, 1996 to commemorate the ornithologist's birth centenary; a sepia-toned stamp bearing an image of a fossilised pteranodon from East Germany; numerous stamps from all over the world depicting various species of penguins, raptors, owls, pheasants and waterfowl; a series of pigeonograms and even a hunting and fishing license issued by the United States Department of the Interior.

Birds of a feather Some of the stamps, Ramu at the exhibition. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

"There are 30,000 stamps on birds, which have been issued across the world, of which I have 25,000," says Ramu, who has chosen to showcase around 18,000 stamps of those on this occasion. Of the 10,000-odd species of birds found in the world, "here, in this exhibition, you will see close to 2,300 different species."

'Let's Go Birding' is a tribute to the late Dr RG Sangoram, a retired professor of Chemistry at MES College in Malleswaram and a keen philatelist himself, who had inducted Ramu into the world of topical philately in the 1980s.

"He inspired me to choose a particular theme and collect on that. He would always say that when you are collecting, you should have focus, otherwise it becomes too generalised," he says, recalling the professor's advice

Being a science teacher himself, Dr Sangoram encouraged science-themed collections, says Ramu, who currently has around 1 lakh stamps, 50,000 of which revolve around specific themes such as butterflies, scientists and geology.

"Initially, I started with birds, butterflies and crawling creatures and later on started developing those collections," he says, pointing out that he has spent nearly 40 years, since the age of 12, collecting stamps.

In spite of having an impressive stamp collection, putting together an exhibition of nearly 18,000 stamps was no easy task for the philatelist. "It was teamwork," says Ramu, who credits his friends Naveein OC and Jagannath Mani for helping him pull off this mammoth task. "Without them I wouldn't have been able to work," he says, adding that the exhibition has been developed keeping in mind the guidelines of competitive philately exhibits. "It requires a lot of brainstorming and correlating visual images with a storyline, which, in turn, has to have a flow."

The first few frames of the 60-odd panels focus on more general themes related to birds, such as origin, anatomy, communication, habits, migration, human-bird relationship and conservation, while the remaining are dedicated to bird taxonomy. "I have covered around 27 orders," he says. Since every stamp has at least three attributes: the name of the country issuing it, the denomination and the image, it is an excellent tool for cognitive learning, says Ramu, who believes that once you're bitten by the stamp bug, "you feel like digging up more."

He hopes that more children come to this exhibition because stamps can also help them learn more about the world around us. "An average birder would have seen 200 to 250 species of birds, and if they travelled across India, maybe a maximum of 500. But here, you'll be able to see close to 2,300 species of birds, a treat for the eyes."

Let's Go Birding is on at the Indian Institute of World Culture in Basavanagudi till December 25

STEPOUT

Earthy notes

The Tapi Project, a widely loved indie collective known for their poetic soundscapes and genre-fluid music, will perform this weekend. The band, which was formed in 2014, features Swati Minaxi, Yogendra Saniyawala, Biju Nambiar and Gaurav Kapadia.
At Windmills Craftworks, Whitefield on December 12 and 13, 9.30pm onwards. Entry is priced at ₹2,000 for seating and ₹750 for standing.

Nature poems

Tranquil Balance, an exhibition featuring art works by Delhi-based artist Pragya Jain, will begin this weekend. Pragya's works are inspired by nature and is an ode of gratitude to what keeps us alive such as air, water, nourishment and love.
At Sublime Galleria, UB City, Vittal Mallya Road, from December 12 to January 4, 11am to 8pm. Open to all, entry fee ₹50.

Yathindra stokes power tussle fire, says his father will stay on

This is the second time in a week that the MLC expressed confidence about his father completing the full term

The Hindu Bureau
BELAGAVI

The "breakfast diplomacy" between Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar to quell speculation over leadership change and signal unity ahead of Winter session at Belagavi seems to be cracking up in the very first week of the session itself.

For the second time this week, amid the ongoing legislature session, Chief Minister's son and MLC Yathindra gave a new lease of life to the leadership issue by stating that the high command favoured continuation of his father and that he would continue for five years. This, predictably, drew a sharp reaction from Mr. Shivakumar.

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar in the Legislative Council on Thursday.

'No confusion'

"There is no confusion about leadership in the State as I have said before. The high command has clearly said that there is no change in leadership as of now," Mr. Yathindra told presspersons here Thursday.

The Congress MLC had created a stir in the party after raking up the leadership issue on Monday – the first day of the session. He had said, responding to questions from reporters, "Personally, I have confidence that my father will complete his full term as Chief Minister. He running the government well and people are happy with the Congress government."

The salvo from the Chief Minister's son comes after the two top leaders – after apparently being nudged by the high command – met twice for breakfast in Bengaluru. It was being interpreted as a meeting for optics of unity ahead of the winter session. The camp followers of the two leaders have been indulging in shadowboxig over the so-called "power sharing" agreement after two and a half years. The Chief Minister's camp has not acknowledged any power sharing agreement.

'CM will respond'

When his response was sought to the statement of Mr. Yathindra, a visibly disturbed Mr. Shivakumar told reporters, "The Chief Minister will respond."

While party leaders believe that the breakfast meet drew a temporary truce, they expect tussle to only intensify after the first week of January, 2026, when Mr. Siddaramaiah will create the record of being longest serving Chief Minister passing the more than four-decade-old record of the late D. Devaraja Urs.

'Chair' talk in session

The Hindu Bureau
BELAGAVI

The power struggle in the ruling Congress led to more than one instance of the Opposition making a joke of it in the ongoing session.

It began with Chief Minister Siddaramaiah complaining that the position of his chair made it uncomfortable for him to stand and speak. He asked a House staff member to pull it back by a few inches. This prompted member S.L. Bhoje Gowda to remark that it was a very bad state of affairs if the "Chief Minister's chair was uncomfortable." Member Chalavadi Narayanaswamy said that it seemed that the Chief Minister's chair was "unstable." The Chief Minister retorted by saying that his chair was stable, and asked the member to check his.

On another occasion, Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar's gesture of requesting the Opposition bench for cooperation in getting clearance for Mekedatu project also led to opposition leaders quickly pointing out the "change in his conduct".

When Arvind Bellad made a reference to Mekedatu project, Mr. Shivakumar appealed to the Opposition benches with folded hands to cooperate with the government in getting clearance.

BJP members Sunil Kumar and Suresh Kumar were quick ask if the "power fight" in Congress and aspiration for the top post had changed his generally aggressive nature.

He even tweaked a popular tune to talk about his hankering for "unseen chair". Mr. Shivakumar responded with a big smile.

Panel to review extent of deemed forest; to submit report within six months

The Hindu Bureau
BELAGAVI

In the wake of confusion over the extent of deemed forest in Karnataka and the problems being faced by farmers, a review committee had been constituted to look into the issue and assess the actual extent of deemed forest, Minister for Forest, Ecology and Environment Eshwar Khandre has said.

Forest Minister Eshwar Khandre cited confusion over the extent of deemed forest in Karnataka and the problems being faced by farmers.

Replying to the queries raised by members in his reply to a starred question by Bangarpet MLA S.N. Narayanaswamy in the Legislative Assembly on Thursday, Mr. Khandre pointed out that it was during the previous BJP-led government's tenure that an affidavit about the State having 3,30,000 lakh hectares of deemed forest was filed before the Supreme Court.

Cause for confusion

However, it had caused lot of confusion and problems to farmers in many places, resulting in legislators raising the issue and seeking remedial measures. Consequently the government had constituted a review committee to assess the actual extent of deemed forest, and a joint survey by officials of Forest and Revenue departments had been ordered, he said.

Responding to the concerns raised by several members of both the ruling and opposition parties, including C.C. Patil, Sunilkumar, Araga Jnanendra, and Sharada Puryanaik, he said that the review committee would be submitting its report within six months.

"But, prior to that, officials have been instructed to place the information on deemed forests, including the survey numbers, during the review meeting of Karnataka Development Programmes, and also provide information to all the legislators," he said.

He added that a mobile application was being developed to assist in the joint survey, and would be released soon.

To another question raised by Mr. Narayanaswamy, Mr. Khandre clarified that as per a Supreme Court order, a land once declared as forest would remain as such unless FC (Forest Clearance) was declared by competent authorities. The same applied to village forests. To sort out issues being faced by farmers in taking up cultivation on land identified as village forest, a meeting would be convened, particularly with regard to Kolar district, he said.

Replying to an allegation by Mr. Narayanaswamy that families were being evicted from the land that they had been cultivating for the last five decades, Mr. Khandre clarified that no such thing had been done, but would look into specific cases.

Karnataka has 2.84 lakh vacancies, maximum in six departments

The Hindu Bureau
BELAGAVI

The State government will fill over 56,000 vacancies in 43 departments in phases, Chief Minister Siddaramaiah said on Thursday. Recruitment was delayed due to the issues related to proper implementation of internal reservation, he said.

The Finance Department has approved filling up of 24,300 posts in the general pool and over 32,000 in the 371-J Hyderabad Karnataka pool. They will be filled in phases. He was responding to a question by member Hanumant Nirani in the Legislative Council.

In PSUs too

"The State government has around 2,84,881 vacancies in 43 departments and around 1.01 lakh vacancies in the 100 public sector undertakings, boards and corporations. The Finance Department has cleared recruitment of 24,300 in 32 departments. Process to fill them in phases will begin soon. Since we came to power, we have filled 11,000 posts," he said.

Chaluvadi Narayanswamy, Leader of the Opposition in the Council, said that the Congress had promised to fill over one lakh posts within one year of coming to power, and accused the government of failing to fulfill the promise.

During BJP regime

The Chief Minister responded by saying that these vacancies had existed during the time of the BJP government too. "These are long-pending vacancies and that successive departments have failed to fill them. No government can fill up all vacancies at once. Such work has to be done in phases," he said.

Short - staffed

Total vacancies	
2,84,881 in 43 departments	
Highest six departments	
Primary Education	79,000
Health	37,000
Home	28,000
Higher Education	13,000
Veterinary	11,000
Revenue	10,000

Dhananjay Sarji, member, complained that the government had failed in preparing a vision document.

"When the population of the State was 3.5 crore, there were seven lakh employees. But when the population has increased to 6.5 crore, we have around 5.5 lakh employees. This is anomalous," he said.

Highest in six depts.

According to a detailed answer provided by the Chief Minister, nearly 1.8 lakh posts are vacant in just six departments. The highest are in Elementary Education with 79,000 vacancies, Health with 37,000, Home with 28,000, Higher Education with 13,000, Veterinary with 11,000 and Revenue with 10,000 posts.

The 37 State universities have a total of 14,677 vacancies.

Bill to include LS and Assembly members from GBA area in the Authority tabled

The Hindu Bureau
BELAGAVI

The Greater Bengaluru Governance (Second Amendment) Bill, 2025, and The Karnataka Social Boycott (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal Bill), 2025, were tabled in the Karnataka Legislative Assembly on Thursday.

On behalf of Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar, Social Welfare Minister H.C. Mahadevappa tabled The Greater Bengaluru Governance (Second Amendment) Bill, 2025, in which six amendments have been proposed to the Greater Bengaluru Governance Act, 2024.

Among other amendments it has been proposed to include all elected members of Lok Sabha and State Legislative Assembly, whose constituency or part of constituency lie within area of the Greater Bengaluru Authority, as members of the Authority.

The Greater Bengaluru Governance (Second Amendment) Bill, 2025, proposes six amendments to the Greater Bengaluru Governance Act, 2024.

The others to be included are members of Rajya Sabha, and State Legislative Council who are elected by members of Legislative Assembly who reside within the Greater Bengaluru Authority, all elected members of Legislative Council from local authorities constituencies or graduate or teachers constituencies and all Rajya Sabha members and MLCs who have their names in the electoral within the area of the authority.

On social boycott

Mr. Mahadevappa also tabled The Karnataka Social Boycott (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal Bill) 2025. Through the Bill, it has been proposed to prohibit any act of social boycott and any person who imposes or causes to impose any social boycott on any member of his community. The offence is punishable with imprisonment which may extend to three years or with fine which may extend to ₹1 lakh or with both.

Prohibition officer

The Bill also proposes to appoint social boycott prohibition officer, provide compensation to the victim.

Lead sugar mill owners' delegation to PM: Yatnal

The Hindu Bureau
BELAGAVI

Expelled BJP MLA Basanagouda R. Patil Yatnal on Thursday urged Chief Minister Siddaramaiah to convene a meeting of sugar factory owners to discuss their problems, and also lead their delegation to Prime Minister Narendra Modi to seek the Centre's intervention in reviving the financial health of the sugar sector.

Participating in a debate in the Assembly on the issues related to development of North Karnataka, Mr. Yatnal claimed that the argument that sugar factory owners earn ₹14,500 from crushing every tonne of sugarcane produce was "false and misleading". He maintained that the sugar sector was in financial dire straits due to various problems.

Basanagouda Patil Yatnal

"I am ready to offer a salary of ₹1 crore a month to those projecting such figures if they can ensure that I earn that much of revenues," he said. The sugar mills were not even getting remunerative prices for the power sold by them to power utilities, he claimed.

Mr. Yatnal, a sugar factory owner himself, suggested that the government set up an expert committee comprising all the Ministers concerned, including Ministers for Sugar, Industries and Energy, to study the reasons for the problems of sugar mills and explore the ways and means of reviving the sector.

Taking exception to blaming sugar mills for the problems of farmers, he maintained, "Farmers will benefit only if sugar mills survive. If the sugar mills get closed, it will only aggravate the problems of farmers. The wise thing is to financially strengthen the sugar mills so that the farmers will be benefited."

Mr. Yatnal questioned the propriety of spending hundreds of crores on building Suvarna Vidhana Soudha in Belagavi though it was being used only for 10 days a year to conduct legislature session.

Ambigara Chowdaiah statue will be placed in a prime place: Minister

The Hindu Bureau
SHIVAMOGGA

The Karnataka government will install a statue of Ambigara Chowdaiah, a poet-reformer from the 12th century, at a suitable place in the State, said Minister for Kannada and Culture Shivaraj Tangadagi.

Shivaraj Tangadagi

Responding to Thippannappa Kamakanur, who raised the issue in the Legislative Council in Belagavi on Thursday, the Minister said the State government would honour Ambigara Chowdaiah by installing the statue either on the premises of Vidhana Soudha in Bengaluru or Suvarna Soudha in Belagavi or any other suitable place. However, he refused to set a timeline to do so.

Several members, including N. Ravi Kumar, H. Vishwanath, Talawar Sabanna of the BJP, took objection to the delay in installing the statue. At one point, Mr. Kamakanur attempted to stage a walkout opposing the delay. They argued that the government had sanctioned a vast extent of land to place statues of social reformers and saints representing dominating castes, but neglected the poets and saints from Backward Classes.

Raju Kage reiterates demand for separate North Karnataka

The Hindu Bureau
BELAGAVI

Congress MLA Raju Kage, who had recently demanded formation of separate North Karnataka state, on Thursday not only raised the issue in the Assembly, but also declared that he would persist with his demand even if all the remaining MLAs of the State and Kannada activists opposed him.

Kagwad MLA Raju Kage speaking in the Legislative Assembly, in Belagavi on Thursday.

Stemmed from pain

Participating in a debate in the Assembly on the issues related to development of North Karnataka, Mr. Kage said the demand stemmed from the pain over being left out in terms of development.

Such was the poverty in his constituency that a large number of people were yet to see Bengaluru as they could not afford to travel that far. "If I say these things in open, then I am accused of speaking against the government. If I keep quiet, then the sufferings of my constituency and my people will continue as our problems do not get a solution," he said, appealing to other members to desist from seeing his outbursts from political angle.

Mr. Kage expressed concern that though Kagwad, constituency represented by him, had been declared as a new taluk in 2017, the taluk office was being run out of a rented building.

He alleged that Kagwad had been allocated only ₹8.60 crore for construction of office complex under Praja Soudha project though Kaduru in Chikkamagaluru had been given ₹16 crore.

Karnataka Cabinet clears internal quota Bill

6% each has been provided for Dalit Left and Dalit Right communities, while 5% has been provided for Lambani, Korama and others

The Hindu Bureau
BELAGAVI

The Cabinet on Thursday cleared The Karnataka Scheduled Castes (Sub-classification) Bill 2025, a proposed legislation for internal reservation among the 101 Scheduled Castes in the State.

The Bill is likely to be tabled in the ongoing Winter Session of the legislature.

The Cabinet also cleared a proposed amendment to the Karnataka State Commission for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes Act to provide for appointment of two additional members to the commission – one member from Scheduled Tribes community and another woman. The legislation for the internal reservation, slicing up the 17% reservation for Scheduled Castes communities is as follows: 6% each has been provided for Dalit Left and Dalit Right communities while 5% has been provided for Lambani, Korama, Koracha and Bhovi, besides about 50 Alemari (nomadic communities).

A view of the Suvarna Vidhana Soudha in Belagavi. The Cabinet also cleared a proposed amendment to the Karnataka State Commission for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes Act.
FILE PHOTO

The Bill is likely to be tabled in the ongoing Winter Session of the legislature

The Cabinet is also learnt to have cleared a proposal to provide e-khata to unapproved properties up to 1,200 sq ft in rural areas.

A senior Minister said that the Cabinet also discussed the procurement of maize not happening to the expected level by the distilleries and the Karnataka Milk Federation.

ORR makeover

The Cabinet also approved the global standards makeover project for the 17.01-km stretch of the Outer Ring Road (ORR) between the Silk Board junction and K.R. Puram in Bengaluru. The project is expected to cost ₹450 crore (including GST).

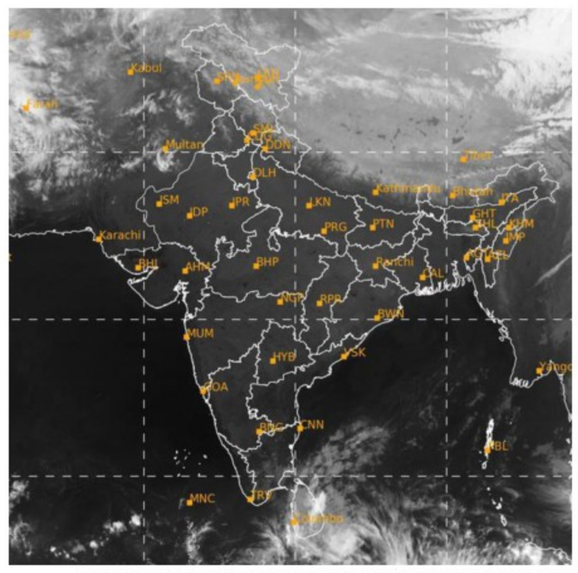
The State government has entrusted B-SMILE, the Special Purpose Vehicle, with executing the project.

In another decision, the Cabinet approved the Karnataka State Road Safety Authority (Amendment) Bill, 2025, one of whose components is the collection of an additional cess during vehicle registration.

The amount collected will be used for road safety awareness initiatives.

WEATHERWATCH

Rainfall, temperature & air quality in select metros yesterday



TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD, POLLUTION DATA: CPCB, MAP: INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 18.15 HRS)

Forecast for Friday: Thunderstorm accompanied with lightning & gusty winds likely at isolated places over Andaman & Nicobar Islands. Dense/very dense fog likely at isolated pockets of Himachal Pradesh, Punjab, Haryana, Chandigarh, Delhi, Uttar Pradesh, Assam, Meghalaya, Nagaland, Manipur, Mizoram, Tripura and Odisha

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	—	28.4	12.4	Kozhikode	—	33.8	24.3
Ahmedabad	—	31.3	13.4	Kurnool	—	31.4	15.2
Aizawl	—	25.4	9.9	Lucknow	—	25.4	10.6
Allahabad	—	26.0	8.8	Madurai	—	32.0	20.8
Bengaluru	—	27.6	15.6	Mangaluru	—	32.8	21.5
Bhopal	—	26.4	6.6	Mumbai	—	33.7	15.6
Bhubaneswar	—	28.8	11.8	Mysuru	—	30.0	15.0
Chandigarh	—	25.1	6.9	New Delhi	—	25.6	8.6
Chennai	—	30.2	23.1	Patna	—	24.0	13.1
Coimbatore	—	30.2	19.4	Port Blair	—	30.2	25.3
Dehradun	—	24.3	8.3	Puducherry	—	28.5	21.0
Gangtok	—	17.5	7.9	Pune	—	30.7	12.7
Goa	—	33.8	19.0	Raipur	—	28.7	11.3
Guwahati	—	26.3	12.0	Ranchi	—	23.3	8.4
Hubballi	—	29.0	12.0	Shillong	—	19.0	7.9
Hyderabad	—	29.6	12.2	Shimla	—	21.0	9.2
Imphal	—	24.0	9.3	Srinagar	—	13.6	-2.9
Jaipur	—	27.4	10.7	Thiruvananthapuram	—	33.2	23.9
Kochi	—	31.4	25.2	Tiruchi	—	29.1	21.0
Kohima	—	15.8	6.5	Vijayawada	—	31.9	17.5
Kolkata	—	26.2	15.3	Visakhapatnam	—	28.5	20.1

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

Pollutants in the air you are breathing

CITIES	SO₂	NO₂	CO	PM2.5	PM10	CODE
Ahmedabad	.44	..90	.24	...136	...179	
Bengaluru	...6	..25	.23	...157	...163	
Chennai	...8	1	.23	...260	...137	
Delhi	.24	..93	.91	...368	...317	
Hyderabad	.27	..16	.28	...115	...119	
Kolkata	...9	111	.55	...325	...255	
Lucknow	.10	..39	.52	...276	...157	
Mumbai	.16	108	...8	...180	...262	
Pune	..—	..11	101	...269	...258	
Visakhapatnam	.29	..63	.20	...259	...175	

Yesterday

In observation made at 4.00 p.m., Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 343 indicating an unhealthy level of pollution. In contrast, Shillong, Meghalaya recorded a healthy AQI score of 12

Air Quality Code: Poor Moderate Good (Readings indicate average AQI)

SO₂: Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues and monuments.

NO₂: Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by reacting with other air particles, causes acid rain, pollutes coastal waters.

CO: Carbon monoxide. High concentration in air reduces oxygen supply to critical organs like the heart and brain. At very high levels, it can cause dizziness, confusion, unconsciousness and even death.

PM2.5 & PM10: Particulate matter pollution can cause irritation of the eyes, nose and throat, coughing, chest tightness and shortness of breath, reduced lung function, irregular heartbeat, asthma attacks, heart attacks and premature death in people with heart or lung disease

BJP MP accuses DMK, Cong. of 'weaponising' impeachment process

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Accusing the Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK) and the Congress of "unconstitutional weaponisation of impeachment", BJP MP Tejasvi Surya on Thursday said their move seeking removal of Madras High Court judge Justice G. R. Swaminathan amounted to "an attack on the judiciary and the impartiality of judges".

Raising the issue during Zero Hour in the Lok Sabha, he alleged that it was driven by "anti-Hindu sentiments" within the Opposition bloc. "I rise to condemn the unconstitutional weaponisation of impeachment that the DMK has sought to achieve," Mr. Surya said.

The DMK MPs had submitted the notice to Speaker Om Birla on Tuesday after Justice Swaminathan directed temple authorities in Madurai's Thiruparankundram to ensure that a lamp is lit at the *Deepathoon*, located near a dargah, triggering a political controversy in Tamil Nadu.

Claiming that the attempt to remove the judge was "a method to silence the judiciary", he said that the DMK governmentwas trying to punish a judge for passing a "reasonable order".

Congress puts up good show in Telangana civic elections

The Hindu Bureau
HYDERABAD

Congress-backed candidates recorded an impressive performance in the first phase of the panchayat elections, winning in nearly 2,000 villages across Telangana, while the BRS-supported candidates fared better than expected, winning in about 800 villages. The BJP-supported candidates failed to make a significant impact.

Though the elections were officially held without party symbols, voters in rural Telangana were largely aware of the candidates' political affiliations and local alignments.

SC declines to transfer trial of ex-MP Prajwal Revanna

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Thursday refused to transfer the trial proceedings in pending sexual assault cases involving former JD(S) MP Prajwal Revanna from a Bengaluru special court to another sessions court in the city.

Appearing before a Bench headed by Chief Justice of India Surya Kant, senior advocates Siddharth Luthra and Siddharth Dave sought the transfer on the basis of certain observations made by the Special Judge in his August 1 judgment convicting Revanna in an earlier sexual assault case.

Prajwal Revanna

The senior lawyers argued that the observations would bias the trials pending before the same judge.

However, Chief Justice Kant took exception to the plea, saying "I am not someone who will take the browbeating of judges or courts lightly... As soon as a judge makes an observation there are allegations made against him?"

The Bench after perusing the observations, said they were contextual to the record of the particular trial and were in tandem with observations made by the High Court in a previous judgment.

"Be that as it may, these observations by the Presiding Officer cannot be the foundation of forming a definite opinion of bias or prejudging the issues," the court observed in the order.

The court found no reason to think that the observations made by him earlier in the August 1 judgment would prejudice or sway the trial judge in the pending cases.

KARNATAKA URBAN WATER SUPPLY & DRAINAGE BOARD
KALABURAGI ZONE, KALABURAGI
Office of the Chief Engineer KUWS & D Board, Kalaburagi Zone,
"Jalbhavan", Rajapur, Kusnoor Road, Kalaburagi - 585105. Tel : 08472-220817,
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No. KWB/CE(K)/TEC/AE-2/SANDUR-OHT/NAGAROTHNA/1144/2025-26 Date : 10/12/2025

-: NOTICE INVITING TENDER :-

1) Detail of Work: Construction of 5 LL capacity 15mtr staging RCC Over Head Reservoir at Sandur town under District Mineral Foundation (DMF) Fund (LUMPSUM) (No Variation). **(Work Indent No : KUWSDB/2025-26 /WS /WORK_INDENT454),** 2) Amount of Estimate: **Rs. 102.50 Lakhs (Excluding GST),** 3) Eligibility of Contractor: Eligible Contractors. 4) Details of Tender application amount and EMD amount: Rs. 2,00,000/-, 5) Period of Completion: 12 (Twelve Months), 6) Date and Time for commencement of downloading of tender documents from the e-procurement portal : **12-12-2025 after 17:10 hours**, 7) Date & Time of Pre-Bid Meeting: **18-12-2025 at 11:30 hours**, 8) Last Date and Time for receipt of Tenders: **26-12-2025 upto 17:30 hours**, 9) Date and Time for Opening of Tender : **29-12-2025 after 11:00 hours**, 10) Addl. information: Office of the Chief Engineer, KUWS & D Board, Kalaburagi Zone, "Jalbhavan", Rajapur, Kusnoor Road, Telephone : 08472-220817 E-mail ID : kwbceklb14@gmail.com, 11) Address of E-portal: **www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in**

Sd/- Chief Engineer
DIPR/Kalaburagi/850/KSMC&A/2025-26 **KUWS & D Board, Kalaburagi Zone, Kalaburagi**

KARNATAKA NEERAVARI NIGAM LIMITED
(A Government of Karnataka Undertaking)
ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಇಂಜಿನಿಯರ್‌ರವರ ಕಛೇರಿ, ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ನೀರಾವರಿ ನಿಗಮ ನಿಯಮಿತ, ನಂ–2,
ವಾರಾಹಿ ಜಲಾಶಯ ಯೋಜನಾ ವಿಭಾಗ, ಸಿದ್ಧಾಪುರ–576229, ಕುಂದಾಪುರ(ತಾ.), ಉಡುಪಿ(ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ), ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ

ಈ ಕಛೇರಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ ಸಂ: ಕಾಇಂ/ಕನೀನಿನಿ/ವಾಜಯೋವಿ–2/ಪಿಬಿ/ಟೆಂಡರ್/10/2025–26/1353 ದಿ: 26.11.2025

ಪ್ರೀ–ಕ್ವಾಲೀಪಿಕೇಶನ್ ಕಂ ಅಲ್ಪಾವಧಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ
(ಕೆ.ಪಿ.ಪಿ. ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ವೇದಿಕೆ) (ಡಬಲ್ ಕವರ್ ಸಿಸ್ಟಂ)

"CONSTRUCTION OF GRAVITY MAIN PIPELINE NETWORK AND CHECK DAMS UNDER PHASE II OF BELTHANGADY LIS IN BELTHANGADY TALUK, DAKSHINA KANNADA DISTRICT AND OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE OF THE SYSTEM FOR THE PERIOD OF 5 YEARS ON TURN-KEY BASIS" ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಯನ್ನು ಕೈಗೊಳ್ಳಲು KPWD Class I/CPWD Class I(A) Contractor & Above ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರಿಂದ ಕೆ.ಪಿ.ಪಿ. ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ವೇದಿಕೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ (LUMP SUM TURN KEY) ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಿದ್ದು, ವಿವರ ಈ ಕೆಳಕಂಡಂತಿರುತ್ತದೆ.

1. ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರು www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in ಅಂತರ್ಜಾಲದ ಮೂಲಕ ಟೆಂಡರಿನಲ್ಲಿ ಭಾಗವಹಿಸಬಹುದು.
2. ಟೆಂಡರಿಗಿಟ್ಟ ಮೊತ್ತ ರೂ. 57.19 ಕೋಟಿ.
3. ಇ.ಎಂ.ಡಿ. ಮೊತ್ತ ಕ್ರಮವಾಗಿ ರೂ. 0.57 ಕೋಟಿ.
4. ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರು ಅಂತರ್ಜಾಲದ ಮೂಲಕ ಕೆ.ಪಿ.ಪಿ. ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ವೇದಿಕೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಟೆಂಡರಿನಲ್ಲಿ ಭಾಗವಹಿಸಬಹುದಾದ ದಿ: 08.12.2025.
5. ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಬಗ್ಗೆ ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ಮಾಹಿತಿ/ಸಮಜಾಯಿಷಿ (queries if any) ಬೇಕಾದಲ್ಲಿ ದಿ. 17.12.2025ರ ಸಮಯ 5.00 ಗಂಟೆಯೊಳಗೆ ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಇಂಜಿನಿಯರ್, ಕನೀನಿನಿ, ನಂ. 2, ವಾಜಯೋವಿ ಇವರಿಗೆ ಲಿಖಿತ ರೂಪದಲ್ಲಿ ಕಛೇರಿಗೆ ಖುದ್ದಾಗಿ/ಅಂಚೆ ಮೂಲಕ/ಇ–ಮೈಲ್ ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸುವುದು.
6. ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಕುರಿತಾದ ಪೂರ್ವಾಭಾವಿ ಸಭೆ ದಿ. 17.12.2025ರಂದು ಸಮಯ 11.00 ಗಂಟೆಗೆ ಮಾನ್ಯ ವ್ಯವಸ್ಥಾಪಕ ನಿರ್ದೇಶಕರು, ಕನೀನಿನಿ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ಇವರ ಕಛೇರಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ನಡೆಯಲಿರುವುದು.
7. ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರು ಅಂತರ್ಜಾಲದ ಮೂಲಕ ಇ–ಪ್ರಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ವೇದಿಕೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಟೆಂಡರಿನಲ್ಲಿ ಭಾಗವಹಿಸಲು ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 26.12.2025ರಂದು ಸಮಯ 5.00 ಘಂಟೆವರೆಗೆ.
8. ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಬಿಡ್‌ಗಳನ್ನು ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿ: 29.12.2025ರ ಸಮಯ ಪೂರ್ವಾಹ್ನ 11.00 ಘಂಟೆ.
9. ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ವಿವರಗಳಿಗಾಗಿ http://www.kppp.Karnataka.gov.in ಅಂತರ್ಜಾಲ ಅಥವಾ ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಇಂಜಿನಿಯರ್, ಕನೀನಿನಿ, ನಂ.–2 ವಾರಾಹಿ ಜಲಾಶಯ ಯೋಜನಾ ವಿಭಾಗ, ಇವರನ್ನು ಸಂಪರ್ಕಿಸುವುದು.
10. ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಯಾವುದೇ ತಿದ್ದುಪಡಿ, ಮಾರ್ಪಾಡು ಅಥವಾ ಇತರ ಬದಲಾವಣೆಗಳಿದ್ದಲ್ಲಿ, http://www.kppp.Karnataka.gov.in ವೆಬ್‌ಸೈಟ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಪ್ರಚುರಪಡಿಸಲಾಗುವುದು.

ಸಹಿ/–, ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಇಂಜಿನಿಯರ್, ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ನೀರಾವರಿ ನಿಗಮ ನಿಯಮಿತ
ನಂ–2, ವಾರಾಹಿ ಜಲಾಶಯ ಯೋಜನಾ ವಿಭಾಗ, ಸಿದ್ಧಾಪುರ, ಉಡುಪಿ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ

Executive Engineer, Public Works Department, Kolar Division, Kolar-563101
e-mail: eepwdkolar07@gmail.com
website: www.kpwd.gov.in
e-portal: http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in
Phone No. 08152-222022

e-tender Notification – K.W. 4
Short Term Tender notification No: 25/ 2025-26
Dt. 09.12.2025

Tender is invited through e-Procurement for works in the limits of Kolar, Bangarpete, KGF, Malur & Mulbagal Taluk, Kolar District Public Works Department from the Class-1 PWD Registered Contractors under **H/A: 4059-CMIDP Estimate cost : Min: Rs.120.00 Lakhs Max: 600.00 Lakhs EMD Amount: mentioned in KPP Portal, Period for completion of work: 6 months.** Contractors may download the tender documents KW-4 from Karnataka State Procurement portal **(viz., htpp://kppp.karnataka.gov.in).** Filled in tenders shall **be uploaded on or before 16.00 hours. on 23.12.2025** through Karnataka State Procurement portal. Tenders received will be opened after **16.30 hours on 24.12.2025 in KPP portal.** Further details regarding the works and also for details about this tender notification please contact KPP portal and also you may contact this office during working hours. **Note: Any changes in this Notification will be published in KPP portal only.**

Sd/- Executive Engineer, PWD Division, Kolar
DIPR/KOLAR/RO:394/KSMCA/2025-26

KARNATAKA POWER CORPORATION LIMITED
(RAICHUR THERMAL POWER STATION)
CIN : U85110KA1970SGC001919

ABSTRACT BID NOTIFICATION (Through KPP Portal Only)

KPCL invites Bids/Tenders through GoK KPP Portal: **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** for the following works.
Procurement of materials for RTPS; **1). KPCL/2025-26/IND2217,** Structural Steel for Boiler & Auxiliaries for BM-2. EMD: **Rs. 34,200/-. 2). KPCL/2025-26/IND2218,** Asbestos Gland Ropes for BM-2. EMD: **Rs.1,400/-. 3). KPCL/2025-26/IND2219,** Hydraulic Jack 50 Ton Capacity for BM-1. EMD: **Rs. 1,500/-. 4). KPCL/2025-26/IND2224,** Elbows, Flanges & Pipes for CAM-2. EMD: **Rs. 2,500/-. 5). KPCL/2025-26/IND2229,** Pipe Fittings for CAM-1. EMD: **Rs. 1,800/-. 6). KPCL/2025-26/IND2227,** Paints & Consumables for BM-1. EMD: **Rs. 2,700/-. 7). KPCL/2025-26/IND2015/CALL-2,** Inner Race & Coupling Pin. EMD: **Rs. 1,600/-. 8). KPCL/2025-26/IND2231,** HP Valves spares for Unit-2 to 4 of BM-1. EMD: **Rs. 37,800/-. 9). KPCL/2025-26/IND2222,** Belzona-1111 for CAM-1. EMD: **Rs. 2,300/-. 10). KPCL/2025-26/IND2221,**CI Elbows for AHP-2. EMD: **Rs. 13,900/-. 11). KPCL/2025-26/IND2220,** D.A & Nitrogen Gas. EMD: **Rs. 20,400/-. 12). KPCL/2025-26/IND2020/CALL-2,** Tabular level Gauges for CAM-1. EMD: **Rs. 1,500/-.**
Last date & time for receipt of tenders: for Sl. No. 12, **16.12.2025 upto 16:00 Hrs.** for Sl. No. 1 to 7, 9 & 11, **17.12.2025 upto 16:00 Hrs.** and for Sl. No. 8 & 10, **18.12.2025 upto 16:00 Hrs.** Further details can be had from the office of the **Executive Engineer (Purchase), RTPS, KPCL, Shakthinagar - 584170, Raichur District**. Mobile No.: **94495 97966,** E-mail: **eeprtps@gmail.com**

BRIEF TENDER NOTIFICATION (Two Tender System)
1). KPCL/2025-26/PM/WORK_INDENT3753, Dated: 02.12.2025, Supply, Erection, Testing and Commissioning of Long Travel Electro Hydraulic Thruster Brake for Stacker-Reclaimer -2 of CHP2/RTPS. Approx.amount put to tender(Exclusive of GST): **Rs. 15,30,000/-.** EMD: **Rs. 38,500/-.** Last date for submission of tender document: **02.01.2026 upto 17:30 Hrs.** Further details can be had from the office of the **Executive Engineer (CHP)M-2, RTPS,** Mobile No.: **94482 90758.**

ABSTRACT TENDER NOTIFICATION (Two Part System)
1). KPCL/2025-26/PS/WORK_INDENT3616/CALL-2, Dated: 02.12.2025, Re-sleeving of Transport Air Compressor(TAC) Cylinders of model TBTD-RM in Unit 3 & 4 AHP and Re-sleeving of Instrument Air Compressor(IAC) & Transport Air Compressor(TAC) Cylinders of M/s. Chicago Pneumatic make in Unit 1 to 4 AHP of RTPS. Last date for submission of completed bids(Two Parts):**17.12.2025 upto 16:00 Hrs.** Further details can be had from the office of the **Executive Engineer (AHP-1), RTPS, KPCL, Shaktinagar- 581470,** Raichur District. Mobile No.: **94495 96544,** Phone: **08532-246125.**

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT, DIVISION, CHITRADURGA
Short Term Tender Notification No. 45/2025-26, Dated: 09.12.2025

Short Term Tender Notification

SHORTTERM E-TENDER NOTIFICATION FOR PREPARATION OF DETAILED PROJECT REPORTS (DPR'S) FOR THE PROPOSED WORKS TO BE TAKEN UP UNDER CEPMIZ

The Executive Engineer, Public Works Department, Division, Chitradurga is inviting tenders for preparation of Detailed Project Reports (DPR's) for the works to be taken up under CEPMIZ as per Standard Bidding Document and KPWD Norms.

Name of work:- (1) Preparation of Detailed Project Reports (DPR's) of Repair / Upgradation of Backward Classes welfare department Department Hostels in Chitradurga, Holalkere, Hosadurga and Molakalmuru Taluk. **Workwise EMD Details may be obtained through KPPP Portal (2)** Preparation of Detailed Project Reports (DPR's) of Repair / Upgradation of Social Welfare Department 24 hostels in Chitradurga Taluk, 06 hostels in Hosadurga Taluk, 08 hostels in Holalkere taluk, 07 hostels in Molakalmuru taluk. **Workwise EMD Details may be obtained through KPPP Portal (3)** Preparation of Detailed Project Reports (DPR's) of Upgradation of Minority Welfare Department Hostels and Residential school in Chitradurga taluk and Upgradation of Hostel in Hosadurga taluk. **Workwise EMD Details may be obtained through KPPP Portal**

Tender Process Details:- (1) Tender Dcoument can be downloaded in KPPP Portal from 09.12.2025 to 19.12.2025 upto 16.00 Hours (2) Pre bid meeting on 16.12.2025 at 11.30 Hours (o/o Executive Engineer Office, PWD Division Chitradurga) (3) Last date & Time for Receipt of Tenders 19.12.2025 upto 16.30 Hours (4) Date & Time for opening of Technical bid 20.12.2025 at 16.45 Hours (5) Date & Time of Opening of Financial Proposal: will be informed separately to those consultants whose technical proposal is accepted. (6) Corrigendums, Addendums and Modifications in Notification if any will be published in KPPP Portal only. Terms of Reference may be downloaded in KPPP portal of the Government of Karnataka (https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in) from 10.12.2025. Registered Consultancy firms in KPPP portal are eligible to participate in any number of tender, But on consultancy firm is eligible to obtain Tender. Any information can be obtained from o/o Executive Engineer Office, PWD Division Chitradurga during office hours on all working days and also through kppp.karnataka.gov.in KPPP Portal Helpdesk Telephone No. 91 9240214000 & 91 9240214001.

DIPR/CTA/KSMCA/524/2025-26 **Sd/- Executive Engineer, PWD, Chitradurga.**

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರ
ಯಾದಗಿರಿ ವೈದ್ಯಕೀಯ ವಿಜ್ಞಾನಗಳ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆ, ಯಾದಗಿರಿ
YADGIRI INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL SCIENCES, YADGIRI-585 202
(Government of Karnataka, Autonomous Institution)
E-mail id: directorymsyadgir@gmail.com, Website:https://yimsyadgiri.karnataka.gov.in

ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ : ಯಿಮ್ಸ್/ಟೆ.ಶಾ/ಟೆ.ಪ್ರ/162/2025–26 ದಿನಾಂಕ:11–12–2025

::ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ ::ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕ ಸಂಗ್ರಹಣೆಗಳ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್

ಯಾದಗಿರಿ ವೈದ್ಯಕೀಯ ವಿಜ್ಞಾನಗಳ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆಯ 2025–26ನೇ ಸಾಲಿನ ಯಾದಗಿರಿ ವೈದ್ಯಕೀಯ ವಿಜ್ಞಾನಗಳ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆ, ಯಾದಗಿರಿಯ ಟೆಂಡರ್.ಸಂ.1 SUPPLY OF MEDICAL BOOKS (UNDER SCP/TSP SCHEME) ಸಲುವಾಗಿ ದಿನಾಂಕ:08–12–2025 ರಿಂದ 18–12–2025 ವರೆಗೆ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಕರೆಯಲಾಗಿದ್ದು, ಟೆಂಡರ್. ಸಂ.2 ಯಾದಗಿರಿ ವೈದ್ಯಕೀಯ ವಿಜ್ಞಾನಗಳ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆಯ ವಿವಿಧಗ್ರೂಪ್–ಸಿ ಮತ್ತು ಡಿ ವೃಂದದ ಭೋಧಕೇತರ ಸಿಬ್ಬಂದಿಗಳ ಸೇವೆಯನ್ನು ಮಾನವ ಸಂಪನ್ಮೂಲ ಎಜೆನ್ಸಿಗಳ ಮೂಖಾಂತರ ಹೊರಗುತ್ತಿಗೆಮೇಲೆ ಪಡೆಯುವ ಕುರಿತು ದಿನಾಂಕ: 08–12–2025ರಿಂದ 08–01–2026 ವರೆಗೆ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಕರೆಯಲಾಗಿದ್ದು, ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕ ಸಂಗ್ರಹಣೆಗಳ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ https://kppp.karnataka.gov.inನಲ್ಲಿ ದ್ವಿ–ಲಕೋಟೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಿರುವ ಬಗ್ಗೆ.

ಕ್ರ ಸಂ	ಸಂಸ್ಥೆ	ವಿವರ	ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ನ ಅಂದಾಜು ಮೊತ್ತ ರೂ.	ಇ.ಎಂ.ಡಿ. ಮೊತ್ತ ರೂ.
1	ಡೀನ್ & ನಿರ್ದೇಶಕರು, ಯಾದಗಿರಿ ವೈದ್ಯಕೀಯ ವಿಜ್ಞಾನಗಳ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆ, ಯಾದಗಿರಿ	DME/2025-26/ IND1897 SUPPLY OF MEDICAL BOOKS TO YIMS YADGIRI (UNDER SCP/TSP SCHEME)	ರೂ. 10,00,000.00	ರೂ. 25,000.00
		DME/2025-26/SE0618 ANNUAL TENDER FOR MAN POWER AT YIMS YADGIRI	ರೂ. 6,50,00,000.00	ರೂ. 13,00,000.00

ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕ್ರಿಯೆ ವಿವರ: ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ವಿವರಗಳಿಗಾಗಿ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕ ಸಂಗ್ರಹಣೆಗಳ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in ನಲ್ಲಿ ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದು.

ಸಹಿ/– ಡೀನ್ ಮತ್ತು ನಿರ್ದೇಶಕರು
ಯಾದಗಿರಿ ವೈದ್ಯಕೀಯ ವಿಜ್ಞಾನಗಳ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆ, ಯಾದಗಿರಿ
ವಾ.ಸಾ.ಸಂ.ಇ/ಯಾದಗಿರಿ/422/ಕೆ.ಎಸ್.ಎಂ.ಸಿ.&ಎ/2025–26

Playing to the gallery

Karnataka's hate crimes Bill is a threat to free speech

Good intentions do not necessarily lead to good outcomes, and it is important to recall this lesson of history in the context of the Karnataka Hate Speech and Hate Crimes (Prevention) Bill, 2025. Its pious objectives are more likely to lead to unintended horrors against free speech and individual liberty, and blatant misuses of state power. The intent of the proposed law is to define and penalise hate speech and hate-motivated acts that incite disharmony, hatred or violence against individuals or groups based on various protected characteristics. The corrosion of public spaces in free societies is indeed troubling, and governments, policymakers and the citizenry are justifiably concerned about this. Individuals and communities are targeted for their religion, race, sexual orientation, caste and gender through public platforms, particularly social media. There is a certain impunity from law that purveyors of hatred are guaranteed. They are often rewarded with political power and social influence. Starting with prejudice against fellow humans, hate speech is fuelled by misinformation and fake news oftentimes. Speech, prejudice and hatred create a vicious cycle, sometimes leading to violence against groups and individuals. Karnataka has more than its share of all these, and the State government must have thought that a specific law is the way to tackle this.

Such attempts around the world are creating more problems than they resolve. Restriction of speech on any ground is a bad idea, and when an agent of the state is authorised to determine what is allowed and what is not, it is a slippery slope. A case in point is how law enforcement in several western countries cracks down on peaceful pro-Palestinian speech as anti-Semitic. Most of the attributes that such laws, including the proposed one in Karnataka, are trying to define are indefinable concepts such as harmony, hate, enmity and ill will. All agree in principle that no one should spread hate or prejudice, and they go on to accuse opponents of doing it. Considering the inescapable subjectivity in this determination, the powerful prevail. The Bill defines hate speech as any expression (spoken, written, visual, electronic) made in public view to deliberately cause injury, disharmony, enmity, hatred, or ill will against a person or group with a prejudicial interest, which is so sweeping and totalitarian that the risk of misuse will be manifold compared to any social good that can be achieved through this. The only reason why speech ought to be controlled in a free society is the imminent threat of violence, and existing laws are more than enough to tackle such situations. The Karnataka government is playing to the gallery. And it is playing with fire.

Notional security

The U.S. is in pursuit of global dominance and isolationism

The U.S. has released its first National Security Strategy (NSS) under the Trump second term, a document described as a road map to "ensure that America remains the world's strongest, richest, most powerful, and most successful country for decades to come". Washington has identified five top foreign policy priorities. These include the notion that the era of mass migration has ended, that core rights and liberties including the freedom of speech and religion need to be protected more than ever before, that the "days of the U.S. propping up the entire world order like Atlas are over", that the White House sees it as imperative to double down on shepherding peace deals across the world as a means to solidify U.S. influence abroad, and that economic security will be accorded highest importance in foreign policy. For the last pillar of national security, especially, the thrust of concerted foreign policy actions for the remainder of the second Trump administration will entail efforts towards achieving balanced trade, securing access to critical supply chains and materials, reindustrialisation of the U.S. economy, boosting American defence infrastructure, energy dominance, and supporting Wall Street to leverage the "dynamic free market system and our leadership in digital finance and innovation" worldwide.

While the grandiose terms of U.S. foreign policy priorities are unsurprising in their broad emphasis, other than, perhaps, the unrelenting subtext of eternal, unquestioned American exceptionalism, it is the broadside against European allies that is most troubling for the risk that it poses to regional stability across the continent. The NSS not only takes a patronising tone on Europe facing the "stark prospect of civilizational erasure" owing to its purported economic decline, but it also faults Germany and EU countries with "unstable minority governments" whose policy actions do not apparently match their stated desire for peace in the context of Russia's war in Ukraine. Little wonder that Germany's Foreign Minister Johann Wadephul retorted that in the context of Germany, he did not believe that "questions of freedom of expression or the organisation of our free societies" belonged in the U.S. NSS and that his country did not need "outside advice". While the NSS is a signpost to guide U.S. diplomats towards a united vision for Washington-defined foreign policy goals, its latest version has set the cat among pigeons so far as anxieties around NATO's strength are concerned. If, as the NSS says, the U.S. intends to push a "burden-sharing network" to force all its allies to assume responsibility for stability in their regions, it might end up bolstering the sense of impunity with which autocrats worldwide flout territorial and human rights norms in their quest for power.

The stark reality of educational costs in India

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Article 21A (86th Amendment, 2002) of the Constitution of India provides the Right to Free and Compulsory Education for children of ages six to 14 years. The National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 expands this vision to cover children from ages three to 18 years, thereby extending the goal of universal education from pre-primary to higher secondary (Class 12). The NEP aims to achieve this universalisation of school education up to the secondary level by 2030. Although education is meant to be free, many students still attend private schools, where substantial fees are charged. In addition, due to several reasons, many students also go for private coaching, which adds to the financial burden.

Given the constitutional guarantee of free education, how expensive is basic schooling in India? How much do parents actually spend to send their children to school – an obligation that, in principle, lies with the government as mentioned in the Constitution? The NSS 80th Round (April-June 2025) survey, on "Comprehensive Modular Survey: Education", offers the latest data to explore these questions.

Enrolment trends in schools

At the national level, 55.9% of students are enrolled in government schools, 11.3% in private aided schools, and 31.9% in private unaided schools. Enrolment in private schools is much higher in the urban sector than in the rural sector. Among the total schoolchildren in urban areas, 51.4% are enrolled in private school, while this share is 24.3% in rural areas. However, the gender gap in private school enrolment is relatively small – 34% of boys and 29.5% of girls.

In the rural sector, children are enrolled more in government schools than in private schools. Private school enrolment is 28.1% in pre-primary, 25.9% in primary, 21% in middle and secondary, and 25.8% in higher secondary. In contrast, in the urban sector, the share of children enrolled in private schools is much higher – 62.9% in pre-primary, 55.3% in primary, 49.8% in middle, 44% in secondary, and 42.3% in higher secondary. As education levels increase, private school enrolment declines in urban areas.

When compared with the earlier round of the NSS Survey on Education (75th round; July 2017-June 2018), we observe an increased share of children enrolled in private schools. In rural areas, the share of children enrolled in private schools increased from 20.9% to 25.9% in primary level, from 16.7% to 21% in middle level, and from 17.3% to 21.1% in secondary level. In urban areas, the share of children enrolled in private schools increased from 50.5% to 55.3% at the primary level, and from 41.8% to 49.8% at the middle level. This rising enrolment in private schools is leading to the increasing costs of education.

Enrolment in government and private schools is closely linked with educational expenditure.

A finding of the NSS 80th Round survey, on 'Comprehensive Modular Survey: Education', is growing inequalities in access to quality education

The survey asked whether students had to pay any course fee. In rural areas, 25.3% of government school students and 98.2% of private school students reported paying course fees. In urban areas, 34.7% of government school students and 98% of private school students reported paying course fees.

The survey reveals that for fees per academic year in government schools, rural fees range from ₹823 (pre-primary) to ₹7,308 (higher secondary), while urban fees range from ₹1,630 (pre-primary) to ₹7,704 (higher secondary). In private schools, rural fees start at ₹17,988 (pre-primary) and go up to ₹33,567 (higher secondary), while urban fees range from ₹26,188 (pre-primary) to ₹49,075 (higher secondary).

When these figures are converted into monthly terms, the financial burden of private schooling becomes even more apparent. In rural areas, monthly expenditure on private schooling ranges from ₹1,499 for pre-primary to ₹2,797 for higher secondary. In urban areas, these figures rise significantly, from ₹2,182 to ₹4,089. When compared to the Monthly Per Capita Expenditure (MPCE) from the Household Consumption Expenditure Survey (HCES) 2023-24 survey, it is evident that the cost of private schooling at the pre-primary level is roughly equivalent to the monthly income of the poorest 5% of households, while the cost at the higher secondary level aligns with the MPCE of households in the third income decile. This stark contrast underscores the financial strain that many families face in accessing quality education.

Incidence and cost of private tuition

The survey collected information on whether a student was taking or had taken private coaching during the current academic year. In this survey, information on private coaching was collected separately and not as a component of expenditure on school education. The survey found that 25.5% of children in rural areas and 30.7% in urban areas take private coaching. In the rural and urban sectors, the proportion of students taking private tuition increases as we move from lower to higher levels of education. In rural areas, it is 10.7% at pre-primary, 21.6% at primary, 29.1% at middle, 36.7% at secondary, and 33.1% at higher secondary. In urban areas, it is 13.6% at pre-primary, 26.6% at primary, 31% at middle, 40.2% at secondary, and 44.6% at higher secondary.

The average expenditure on private coaching per reported student during the current academic year is higher in the urban sector than in the rural sector. It is ₹13,026 in urban areas and ₹7,066 in rural areas. The average expenditure on private coaching increases as we move from lower to higher levels of education. In rural areas, it is ₹3,980 for pre-primary, ₹4,825 for primary, ₹6,043 for middle, ₹8,616 for secondary, and ₹13,803 for higher secondary. In urban areas, it is ₹5,815 for pre-primary, ₹7,947 for primary, ₹10,765 for middle, ₹16,415 for secondary, and ₹22,394 for higher secondary.

Research shows that higher household income, better educated parents, and urban residence are strongly correlated with a greater demand for private tuition. Studies also observe a positive and significant effect of private tutoring on students' learning outcomes.

Consequently, parents who place a high value on education and possess the financial resources are more likely to invest in private tutoring for their children. Thus, the tendency to seek private tuition is particularly higher among students enrolled in private schools. Although private schooling charges relatively high fees, many teachers in private schools are underpaid and often underqualified, which leads students to rely on private tutoring for academic support. Further, some scholars argue that private tuition has also become a symbol of prestige among families.

Strengthen publicly funded schools

The findings of the NSS 80th Round Survey highlight the stark reality of educational costs in India. Despite the constitutional guarantee of free education, a significant proportion of students, (24.3% in rural and 51.4% in urban), attend private schools that require substantial fees. With private tuition further burdening household finances, education is becoming increasingly unaffordable for many families, particularly those from lower-income backgrounds.

This trend is not only exacerbating inequalities in access to quality education but also threatening the very principle of basic and universal education. As government schools face declining enrolment, children from economically disadvantaged families are being pushed into the private education system, often at the cost of significant financial strain.

Additionally, the growing private tuition phenomenon contributes to widening learning inequalities, where the wealthy have an undeniable advantage over disadvantaged households. Thus, strengthening the quality of learning in publicly funded schools can arrest this trend.

Addressing these challenges requires urgent reforms. Strengthening the quality and accessibility of government schools is paramount to ensuring that education remains a right, not a privilege. A 2024 study by economists Ankush Agrawal, Parul Gupta, and Debasis Mondal published in *The Journal of Development Studies* finds that private tuition is negatively associated with school quality indicators. This implies that students at 'better' schools rely less on tutoring. Thus, strengthening the quality of learning would help bridge the widening gap between students from different socio-economic backgrounds. It is only through these efforts that we can move toward achieving truly equitable and inclusive education for all children in India.

The Madras High Court must break its silence

G.M. Akbarali

is a former Judge, Madras High Court

All appointments of judges to the High Court must be recommended by the Collegium, which comprises the Chief Justice of the High Court and the two senior-most judges. This recommendation is then sent to the State government. In turn, the State government can raise objections and seek clarifications. If the Collegium reiterates its choice or makes clarifications, the government is bound by the decision.

The clarification sought

On November 9, 2025, the Madras High Court Collegium recommended the names of six district judges for elevation to the High Court. The State government did not express any objections against the merit or suitability of the candidates, but instead, sought clarification on a fundamental procedural concern, i.e., the constitution of the Collegium itself.

Justice J. Nisha Banu, who had once headed the women lawyers' association at the Madurai Bench of the Madras High Court, was elevated to the High Court Bench on October 5, 2016. In a career on the Bench spanning nine-plus years, Justice Nisha Banu is now third on the seniority list and the second most senior judge of the High Court. She is now a 'Collegium judge' at the Madras High Court.

However, on the recommendation of the Supreme Court Collegium, the Union Ministry for Law and Justice issued a notification dated October 14, 2025, transferring Justice Nisha Banu to the Kerala High Court and also to be placed ninth in seniority for reasons that are unknown. But the fact remains that Justice Nisha Banu did not proceed to join. Admittedly, Her Lordship is part of the Madras High Court and she continues to be a Collegium judge. Therefore, the State government had sought for clarification on the non-inclusion of Collegium judge Justice Nisha Banu and the inclusion of Justice M.S. Ramesh, the next seniormost judge.

The State government sought clarification on what the legal authority was for this substitution and whether it was supported by any Supreme Court direction or constitutional principle.

The High Court must clarify whether the method of the Collegium's recommendations in the case of recent judicial appointments was in accordance with the Constitution and the Memorandum of Procedure

Rather than clarifying these concerns, the Collegium proceeded to recommend nine more advocates to fill additional vacancies, without clarifying the core issue of constitutional validity raised earlier by the State.

The essence of a constitutional democracy lies not merely in its written text but also in the integrity of its institutions. The judicial appointments process – safeguarded by the Supreme Court's own jurisprudence through the Collegium system – stands at the heart of that integrity. Is the Collegium assuming that Justice Nisha Banu is not a part of the Madras High Court or has it already clarified the issue with any authority to proceed? Whatever it may be, the State is entitled to a clarification.

The Memorandum Of Procedure mandates that in the appointment of High Court judges, the Chief Justice of the High Court and the two seniormost judges of that High Court shall recommend the names. But here in the Madras High Court, a senior judge was ignored .

When procedure becomes substance

It is sometimes argued that procedural deviations are minor – that good candidates should not be denied due to "technicalities". But in the constitutional architecture, procedure is not ornamentation. It is the foundation. The Collegium system itself is a creation, not of statute, but of judicial precedent and, therefore, must strictly adhere to judicially-developed norms to retain legitimacy.

When a judge who continues to wield administrative authority is excluded without recorded justification, and when another judge is included without jurisdictional support, the very decision-making entity becomes questionable. If the body making the recommendation is not properly constituted, the recommendations themselves risk becoming void. This is not a mere administrative lapse. It is a constitutional crisis because the integrity of judicial appointments cannot coexist with uncertainty over who is authorised to make them and where there is a situation where another Constitutional branch is in the dark.

The Collegium system itself is criticised for its lack of transparency, nepotism, under- or non-representation of deserving members across the sections, political influence and accountability.

The need for reforms

The Madras High Court Collegium must clarify with reference to law or procedure why Justice Nisha Banu was excluded and Justice M.S. Ramesh was included.

Silence is not an option when the issue strikes at the structural integrity of judicial independence. Otherwise it will leave a citizen to wonder whether there was 'any motive' at play. Whether discontented or contented, affiliated or unaffiliated, ideological or religious, a judge is a judge.

The High Court must note *Kural* 541, *"Orndhukan Notaadhu Iraipurindhu Yaarmaattum Therndhusey Vaqdhe Murai* (Search out, to no one favour show; with heart that justice loves Consult, then act; this is the rule that right approves").

This situation should also prompt the Supreme Court to revisit the Collegium system and frame reforms that have been demanded for long, and ensure clearer rules of composition, published reasons, and mandatory disclosures.

The question is not whether these six district judges or the nine advocates are eligible candidates, though the selection of the nine advocates appear aligned with political preferences or ideological loyalty. The question is whether the method of their recommendations for elevation is in accordance with Article 217 of the Constitution of India and the Memorandum of Procedure which rules that the Chief Justice of the High Court and the two seniormost judges of the High Court shall recommend the names for appointment as High Court judges.

Once the constitution of the Collegium becomes questionable, the recommendations also become questionable and there is definitely a constitutional crisis between the two branches of the Constitution, the judiciary and the State government.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Parliament, the debates

The only result from the debates in Parliament on the *Vande Mataram* 'issue' and poll reforms seems to be rancorous, controversial and demeaning arguments from both sides of the political aisle.

There was no clarity on the issues under discussion and only the loss of precious time. As both sides were unrelenting in their stated positions, the discussions ran aground. This is most unfortunate given the expenses to the public exchequer.

V. Padmanabhan,
Bengaluru

Social media ban

Australia's social media ban for children under 16 is a tough but timely decision and needs global attention ('World' page, December 12).

There is no doubt that it has a clear and inspiring long-term view and will prove to be a boon. The bold decision of the Australian Prime Minister will definitely motivate other developed nations to think on these lines.

Vijaya Segara Ramsait,
Courtallam, Tenkasi, Tamil Nadu

Letters emailed to letters@thehindu.co.in must carry the postal address.

Is the falling rupee a cause for alarm?

Madan Sabnavis
Chief Economist at the Bank of Baroda

Ranen Banerjee
Partner and Economic Advisory Leader at PwC India

PARLEY

Over the last few days, the rupee exchange rate has fallen below ₹90 a dollar and has largely stayed at that level. Now, with Parliament running, a lot of the discourse on this has been political. However, from a policy level, it is critical to understand the economics behind the fall. Why is the rupee falling? Is it falling worse than other currencies? Does the fall hurt or help the Indian economy? And finally, is this a cause for alarm? Madan Sabnavis and Ranen Banerjee answer these in a conversation moderated by **TCA Sharad Raghavan**. Edited excerpts:

Why is the rupee falling?

Madan Sabnavis: It is falling for a variety of reasons. The first is that the fundamentals are definitely negative. When I talk of fundamentals, I am talking in terms of a higher trade deficit, possibly a higher current account deficit, and the movement of FPIs (foreign portfolio investments), which have tended to be negative rather than positive. These are the fundamental factors and these also get reflected in terms of our forex reserves coming down.

But I think the factor which has been driving the rupee down is more on the tariff front, where there were expectations that there would be a deal between India and the United States. That seems to be on the anvil, but still has not quite taken place. I think that is the reason why the sentiment has turned in the other direction.

In this entire business of the rupee depreciating, a critical factor which sort of moderates the level of fall of the rupee has been the intervention of the RBI (Reserve Bank of India). Now, we have seen that the intervention of the RBI in the forex market has tended to be limited. It does look like the fall of the rupee is within the acceptable limits of the RBI, though we should say upfront that the RBI maintains it is not defending any rate, but is out there to check any excess volatility in the market. These are the reasons why we have seen the rupee crossing from ₹87 to ₹88 to ₹89 and now ₹90.

Ranen Banerjee: The rupee is falling for two or three reasons. The primary one is ongoing portfolio outflows, which are increasing the demand for dollars. Second, our import growth has been higher than the export growth. And that also boosts the demand for the dollar. The current account deficit has been higher. So I think it's the demand and supply of dollars and how much the RBI releases from its reserves to meet the demand. The uncertainty on the tariff agreement creates a forward-looking challenge. And it may impact the economy also. So that

GETTY IMAGES

may influence some sentiment of the portfolio investors, who may be withdrawing from the Indian market. But I don't think that is the key reason why portfolio investors are withdrawing. I think the key view that the investors are taking is that the valuations are higher and that they could have a higher return in other economies by deploying that capital in the immediate term. So, that is influencing portfolio flows. And of course, the uncertainty on the trade front adds to that sentiment.

Does a falling rupee indicate a weakness in the economy?

MS: Definitely not. Because if you are looking at the overall state of the economy, if you go by the performance on the GDP front, it has been fairly remarkable, the kind of growth rates we have seen in the first half of the year. So, I don't think it has anything to do with the real economy. The balance of payments is fairly robust. The RBI Governor had also pointed out that affordance reserves are covering 11 months of imports. So, I don't see any problem out there. It is more of the sentiment that has been driving the rupee downwards.

RB: I don't think that there has been any structural change in the economy that is influencing the rupee. The fundamentals are very strong. We are having robust growth. Inflation is benign. The monetary policy is quite accommodative. The rate cuts have been done. The fiscal consolidation is in place. Capital expenditure is going on. The government is adhering to the fiscal roadmap that it had laid down. So I don't think structurally anything major has changed. It is my belief that it is more transient factors that are impacting this (fall of the rupee), rather than structural factors.

> I don't think we are in a situation where we need to be alarmed. We are the worst performing currency in the last three months, maybe. But if we take a two-year horizon, then I think other than the Korean currency, all other emerging market currencies have possibly depreciated against the dollar much more than the rupee.
> **RANEN BANERJEE**

Do you feel that there is any benefit to India from a falling rupee?

MS: The only benefit which we would be getting on account of the falling rupee is more theoretical in nature. When I say theoretical, economic theory says that when the rupee depreciates, your exports gain a competitive advantage over the other countries. From the point of view of exports, if other currencies are not depreciating, but the rupee is depreciating, maybe around 4-5%, which we have seen in the current calendar year, this is an advantage for our exporters. The higher tariffs that have been imposed by the U.S. could be negated to a certain extent by the price competitiveness that we get on account of the rupee depreciation.

Imports will become more expensive. Every commodity which we are importing is going to become more expensive by 4-5%. But purely from the point of view of inflation, if you look at the components of the CPI (Consumer Price Index) and what really gets affected on account of imports, our calculation shows that 5% depreciation on a sustained basis could push up inflation by something like 0.3-0.4%, which is not really very high. And given the fact that inflation is at an all-time low in India, this should not be a major worry for us.

RB: The exporters may be happy that they are having a better realisation. And also, they may be happy that given some of the tariff headwinds, our products may become a little bit more competitive. If you look at, say, services, services exports is a very large segment of our economy and it has been doing very well, growing very fast. So companies that are exporting services are going to have better bottom lines in rupee terms. Who knows, they may be willing to share some of those benefits with their employees as higher bonuses. And then that may lead to further support for consumption. So, there are various channels through which benefits could come.

But then there are downsides also. We are a large importer. And therefore, during any rupee weakness, we have to shell out more rupees. And there could be some additional expenses that need to be done by companies that are importing. And if the demand holds, then to a very small extent, there could be some bit of imported inflation too, but it may not be very large. So we can't really say whether it is benefiting India or not because different segments of the economy get impacted differently.

Is the falling rupee alarming and should the RBI step in or let it fall?

MS: Every time the rupee reaches a new low, there is a tendency for a certain amount of alarm. And if the rupee is going down and there is little interference from the RBI, there would be a natural tendency for this to become self-fulfilling and the rupee will fall further. But in terms of internal dynamics, the currency should not be a major worry. From the point of view of exports, no alarm. From the point of view of inflation, no alarm.

But I think what is a worry is that when we have such a volatile currency, it becomes a bit difficult for both exporters and importers to do business, because normally we expect the rupee to be stable. The rupee should actually be appreciating, given the fact that the dollar is weakening. So, to that extent, I think it is definitely a disruption for us, especially for those who are in the business of importing inputs. But it is not going to rock the overall economic performance of the economy.

There may also be some pressure on the fiscal balance, but we will have to wait for the revised budget figures to understand the extent of the impact. There would definitely be some problem even in terms of fertilizer imports. But we don't expect that to actually upset the fiscal arithmetic too much.

RB: I don't think we are in a situation where we need to be alarmed. We are the worst performing currency in the last three months, maybe. But if we take a two-year horizon, then I think other than the Korean currency, all other emerging market currencies have possibly depreciated against the dollar much more than the rupee. So, we must not forget that we almost had a flat exchange rate for over 12 months prior to the last six months. So I don't think that there is need for alarm.

To listen to the full interview
Scan the code or go to the link
www.thehindu.com

NOTEBOOK

At COP30, China's tea-infused fabric and India's austerity

Pavilions are where countries set up cultural displays that tout their commitment to sustainable development and clean energy

Jacob Koshy

"Maybe it is just the magic of the panda," Liantong Zhou told me in a paroxysm of laughter, seriousness, and bemusement.

Something strange was happening at the Chinese pavilion in the Hangar Convention and Fair Centre, the venue of the COP30 climate talks in Belem, Brazil. These pavilions at the annual United Nations conference are where countries set up cultural displays that tout their commitment to sustainable development and clean energy. They are also venues for panel discussions and seminars, and provide opportunities for bureaucrats, ministers, and businessmen to network. They are like temporary embassies where all the countries mark their presence over the fortnight of talks.

What marked the Chinese pavilion were the queues. On all days, Ms. Zhou told me, people had been lining up for an hour, sometimes two or three times a day, for 'gifts'. These freebies included baubles, pens, caps, panda figurines, candles and soft toys – every day tourist ware – and were outwardly unexceptional. There were bigger panda soft toys and coffee mugs as well, but these were not free and had to be bought. And those were not exactly flying off the shelves.

I asked Ms. Zhou if she would endure a two-hour wait for similar stuff back home in Beijing. She gave me a diplomatic chuckle – she worked at the Environment Ministry and was only volunteering at the pavilion – and did not let her official mask slip. "Most of these are metal but some of them are made of tea," she explained. "Bags?" I asked. "No, they are dissolvable, tea-infused fabric and recyclable. Once you are done with them, you can drink them."

Other pavilions too had their draw: there was free Colombian coffee and Australian cakes, but no long lines. Here, in a microcosm, was geopolitics at play. China was the manufacturing powerhouse of the world and everyone at its pavilion was lining up for a piece of whatever the Chinese were giving away. This was no longer the country that, once in the popular imagination, was linked to plastic articles and toxic paints. 'Metal,' 'recyclable,' and 'eminently desirable' was the aesthetic the pavilion exuded.

At COP30, the U.S. was absent. It was where countries such as China, India, Iran, Saudi Arabia – or the Like-Minded Developing Countries, as they are called – steered the conversation away from ending fossil fuel to concerns such as adaptation and the money needed to better fortify against a heating globe. From the European perspective, these countries, with their refusal to set hard deadlines on phasing out fossil fuels. are stalling progress, though it is also common knowledge that without China's rare earths, solar cells, and batteries, an oil-and-coal-free planet is an opium dream.

In contrast to the Chinese pavilion, the Indian pavilion was austere. 'India@COP30' was displayed amid the red, orange, and green. India may be the third largest solar producer in the world, but a little over 70% of its actual electricity comes from coal. There were no queues because there was nothing to give away. It was nearly always empty except for visits by members of the Indian delegation.

"See these chairs?" Ms. Zhou continued, pointing to elegantly crafted wooden ones. "Tomorrow evening, when the pavilions close, we are going to give them all away. We shipped these in from China. We have committed them to a local NGO but anybody who wants them can take them away for free, if they line up."

However, the next day, shrieks rent the pavilion. "Fire! Fire! Everyone clear out," UN marshals bellowed, herding us all through the exits. A short circuit in the vicinity of the Africa pavilion had razed large portions. The venue was sealed. and shut for the day. I wondered if somebody had grabbed those chairs.

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PICTURE OF THE WEEK

Rhythm of the harvest

Men and women of the Hill Tiwa community harvest paddy in Umsuwai village in Karbi Anglong district of Assam. RITU RAJ KONWAR

FROM THE ARCHIVES The Hindu.

FIFTY YEARS AGO DECEMBER 12, 1975

Loch Ness snaps fail to end controversy

London, Dec. 11: Two British scientists have charged that photographs an American team claimed it took of the legendary Loch Ness monster "prove nothing". The British scientists, all experts at London's prestigious Natural History Museum, said last night that the photographs showing what appear to be a grotesque horned head and a giant flipper jutting from a fish-like body "do not constitute acceptable evidence of the existence of a large living animal." The attack stirred further controversy around the claims by the Americans, led by Mr. Robert Rines of Boston, that they had located the elusive monster that has intrigued scientists for generations.

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO DECEMBER 12, 1925

No pearl fisheries in Ceylon

There are no prospects of a Pearl Fishery next year. The news was communicated to a representative of "The Ceylon Daily News" by Dr. Joseph Pearson, Marine Biologist and Director of the Colombo Museum, who has returned from the inspection of the Pearl Banks.

From Page One

EC extends deadline for SIR in 5 States, one U.T.

According to data shared by the EC, 100% of enumeration forms have been digitised in T.N., M.P., Chhattisgarh, Andaman and Nicobar, and Gujarat. R. RAGU

The enumeration period for West Bengal, Goa, Puducherry, Lakshadweep, and Rajasthan, however, ended on Thursday as scheduled, and their draft electoral rolls will be published on December 16. The schedule for Kerala had been revised earlier, with the enumeration deadline pushed to December 18 and the draft voter list to be published on December 23.

According to data shared by the EC, however, 100% of enumeration forms have been digitised in T.N., M.P., Chhattisgarh, Andaman and Nicobar, and Gujarat, while in West Bengal, Rajasthan, U.P. and Kerala, more than 99% have been completed.

A senior EC official told *The Hindu* that most CEOs wanted the booth-level agents appointed by political parties to go through the draft lists before they are published, so that any issues regarding addition or deletion of names can be resolved at this stage. Since CEOs had only begun sharing these lists with BLAs from Wednesday, they had sought some more time for this process.

The poll body added: "New electors are being encouraged to fill Form 6 and submit it to the Booth Level Officers (BLOs) or fill the form online using the ECINet app or website."

18 killed as truck falls into gorge in Arunachal

The Army engaged in search and rescue at the site of the accident in Arunachal Pradesh. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

"The spot is difficult to access and not visible from helicopters or from the road above due to dense foliage. The bodies are being retrieved using belay ropes," the spokesperson said. The accident site is about 12 km from Chaglagam.

Anjaw's Superintendent of Police Anurag Dwivedi said the group of labourers had left Tinsukia on December 7 for Chaglagam to work at a construction site. Their associates filed an enquiry at the Hayuliang police station after the workers failed to arrive by December 10.

A district official said that they were interrogating a subcontractor associated with a Chaglagam Zila Parishad member to verify the antecedents and the exact number of workers hired. The survivor, however, said that he was among 22 hired for a project in Anjaw district.

The official said rescue workers would continue the search for the three missing persons. "The progress is slow due to the steepness of the gorge," he said. The police in Assam's Tinsukia district said a task force has been formed to coordinate with and assist the family members of those confirmed or feared dead.

Goa fire: Thailand to deport Luthra brothers; court denies transit bail

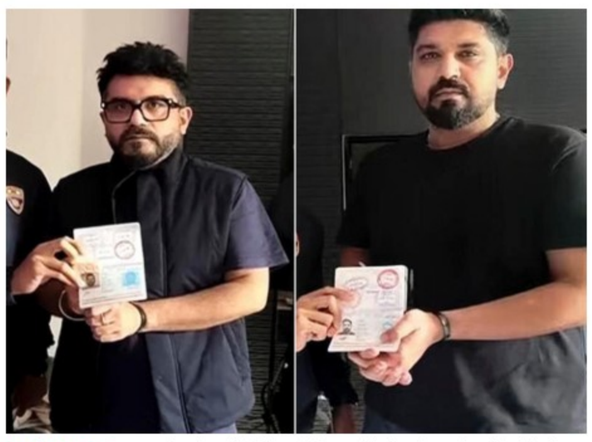
Deportation process started, the co-owners of the nightclub will be brought back to face legal action, says Goa CM; they fled India on Dec. 7, booking tickets an hour after the fire; Interpol notice issued on Dec. 9 following request from State Police

Press Trust of India
PANAJI

Gaurav and Saurabh Luthra, co-owners of the Birch by Romeo Lane nightclub in North Goa where a blaze claimed 25 lives, have been detained by authorities in Thailand, officials said on Thursday, even as a Delhi court rejected their transit anticipatory bail pleas.

The brothers, prime accused in the case related to the tragedy that unfolded at Arpora village around midnight on December 6, will be brought back to India "as soon as possible" to face legal action, Goa Chief Minister Pramod Sawant said.

A court in Goa has remanded the Luthras' partner Ajay Gupta to police custody for seven days. He claimed to be a silent partner and investor in the nightclub, with no operational role in the facility. The Goa Police have also arrested five managers and staff members of the nightclub. The CM said that the Arpora panchayat secretary Raghuvir Bagkar, suspended after the fire tragedy, was not cooperating with the probe and would also be arrested.



In the net: Gaurav Luthra (left) and Saurabh Luthra who fled India after a fire at their Goa nightclub were detained in Thailand. PTI

Mr. Gaurav Luthra, 44, and his brother Mr. Saurabh Luthra, 40, had sought four weeks of transit anticipatory bail so that they were not immediately arrested on their return to India, but Additional Sessions Judge Vandana dismissed their pleas.

"They left, they concealed, and they are now seeking leniency," the Goa government's lawyer told the court, pointing out that they had fled immediately after the fire and were evading the legal process.

A lawyer for the Luthras submitted during the hearing that they were willing to return immediately and face the investigation.

Fled within hours

The brothers had fled to Phuket in Thailand, booking their flight tickets through a travel portal at 1.17 a.m. on December 7, a little over an hour after learning about the fire at their nightclub, officials said. They had left the country by 5.30 a.m.

An Interpol Blue Corner notice was issued against them on December 9 following a request from the Goa Police routed through the CBI.

Officials said their deportation has now been initiated, and the two would be brought to India after the completion of exit formalities in Thailand.

In New Delhi, Union Minister of State for Renewable Energy Shripad Naik, who hails from Goa, confirmed the arrest to reporters outside Parliament House. "Yes, both of them are arrested," he said, wondering why they had run away when such a big tragedy had happened. "Where will they run," he asked.

The Goa Police said the brothers are accused of injury causing death, manslaughter, and murder, by organising a fire show at the nightclub "without taking proper care and caution and without providing fire safety equipment, other safety gadgets".

The Goa government continued its drive against illegalities at nightclubs and other tourism establishments in the State.

Coast Guard intercepts Pakistani boat, detains 11

Abhinay Deshpande
AHMEDABAD

The Coast Guard has detained a Pakistani fishing vessel found operating inside India's maritime limits and taken 11 crew members into custody, officials said on Thursday.

According to authorities, the apprehended fishermen were later transferred to the Jakhau Marine police station in Gujarat for further inquiry.

The Gujarat Defence PRO said in a post on X that the Coast Guard intercepted the boat on Wednesday inside India's Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ). He noted that the operation reflects the force's maritime patrol efforts and India's commitment to safeguarding its borders while adhering to international maritime regulations.

"In a swift operation on 10 Dec 25, @IndiaCoastGuard apprehended a #Pakistani fishing boat with 11 crew inside the #Indian #EEZ," the post said.

SC orders SIT probe into death of SC youth in M.P.

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Thursday constituted a Special Investigation Team (SIT) to probe the unnatural death of a Scheduled Caste youth in Madhya Pradesh amid the differing versions given by his widow and brother about the persons responsible for the tragedy.

A Bench of Chief Justice of India Surya Kant and Justice Joymalya Bagchi directed the Director General of Police, Madhya Pradesh, to form a SIT of three direct-recruit IPS officers to probe the death of Nilesh Adivasi in July.

According to the statement of the widow, her husband took his own life on account of the "torture and harassment meted out to him by a former Home Minister of the State and his associates". She had approached the High Court for a CBI investigation into the death.

However, the brother of the deceased alleged that a person named 'Govind Singh Rajput' and others were responsible for the unnatural death.

President begins visit to Manipur amid shutdown

The Hindu Bureau
GUWAHATI

President Droupadi Murmu began her two-day visit to Manipur on Thursday amid a shutdown called by a conglomerate of banned armed organisations.

The Coordination Committee (CorCom), comprising seven Imphal Valley-based extremist groups, announced two days ago that the shutdown would remain in force until the President left the conflict-scarred State.

Shops and markets in Imphal and adjoining areas remained closed, and vehicles were largely off the roads when the President reached the State's capital, Imphal, around 1 p.m.

Her maiden visit to the State began with witnessing a polo exhibition match at the city's Mapal Kangjeibung.

In the evening, she addressed a civic reception, hosted in her honour by the State government.

Ms. Murmu will visit the Nupi Lal Memorial Complex in Imphal on Friday and pay her respects to Manipur's women warriors. Nupi Lal refers to two women-led uprisings (1904 and 1939) in which Manipuri women resisted British colonial policies and asserted their rights and dignity.

Key visit: President Droupadi Murmu being welcomed by Manipur Governor Ajay Kumar Bhalla in Imphal on Thursday. ANI

The President is also scheduled to travel to Senapati district, bordering Nagaland, to address a public gathering and inaugurate various development projects for the district.

'Refugees in own State'

Hours before her arrival, Meitei groups—Coordinating Committee on Manipur Integrity (COCOMI) and Arambai Tenggol—drew Ms. Murmu's attention to the plight of the internally displaced persons (IDPs) scattered across the relief camps.

COCOMI urged her to take firm steps to protect the Constitutional rights of the people in Manipur.

Its convenor, Khuraijam Athouba, pointed out that thousands of people continued to live as refugees in their own State.

Recalling the government's commitment that the IDPs would be resettled in three phases by December, he noted the lack of progress in this regard.

The President's tour comes three months after Prime Minister Narendra Modi visited Manipur on September 13 for the first time since the ethnic violence broke out in May 2023. The clashes claimed more than 260 lives and displaced about 62,000 people.

M.P. HC summons Home Secretary over 'suspicious' arrest

Mehul Malpani
BHOPAL

An 18-year-old youth from Rajasthan was detained in M.P. for alleged possession of 2.7 kg of opium

The Madhya Pradesh High Court has summoned the Principal Secretary of the State's Home Department, a day after the police informed the court that six personnel have been suspended over lapses in the arrest of an 18-year-old youth in a drugs case in Mandsaur district.

In an order dated December 9, a single bench of Justice Subodh Abhyankar in Indore expressed concerns over the adherence to the provisions of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS), 2023, during search and seizure.

During the hearing, Mandsaur Superintendent of Police (SP) Vinod Kumar Meena had told the court that six personnel of the Malhargarh police station had been suspended on December 6, a day after the court granted bail to Sohanlal Jaat and termed the case "rather suspicious".

Sohanlal, a resident of Rajasthan's Balotra district, was arrested by Malhargarh police on August 29 for alleged possession of 2.7 kg of opium.

'Fake case'

His family, however, moved the High Court seeking bail for him and accusing the police of "abducting him and planting the opium to build a fake case". The family presented CCTV footage of the bus from which Sohanlal was escorted out by three men in civil attire at 11.39 a.m., while questioning a six-hour delay in the formal arrest.

Speaking to *The Hindu*, advocate Himanshu Thakur, Sohanlal's lawyer, questioned the contradicting responses by the police in the court. "During the December 5 hearing, the investigating officer told the court that he did not recognise the men who took Sohanlal out of the bus. But now, the SP has admitted that they were cops," Mr. Thakur said.

Delhi court grants bail to Umar Khalid to attend sister's wedding

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Student activist Umar Khalid, accused in a larger conspiracy case related to the 2020 North East Delhi riots, was granted interim bail on Thursday to attend his sister's wedding.

Additional Sessions Judge Sameer Bajpai of Karkardooma court granted Mr. Khalid bail from December 16 to 29.

The conditional bail given to Mr. Khalid includes a clause that he will not use social media and will meet only his family members, relatives and friends. He has been ordered to remain at home or the venue of the wedding and other ceremonies.

Mr. Khalid had sought bail from December 14 to 29 to attend his sister's wedding, which is scheduled on December 27. In his plea, he stated that during the period of interim bail he will be able to spend some time with his elderly parents.

Umar Khalid

'Five years on, no trial'

The activist mentioned that he had been languishing in jail since September 13, 2020, approximately 5 years and three months, and will be able to meet his elder sister and her children, who are living abroad and coming to India to attend the wedding.

The Delhi Police have opposed Mr. Khalid's bail stating that he does not deserve any relief. Police also stated that the actual marriage functions will be held from December 25 to 27 so there is no necessity to grant interim bail to the applicant for 15 days, as prayed.

Arrested in September 2020 under charges such as criminal conspiracy, rioting, unlawful assembly and Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA), Mr. Khalid's regular bail plea was pending in the Supreme Court.

He was granted bail in December 2024 to attend his cousin's wedding.

'Criminals forcibly administering acid deserve harsher punishment'

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Thursday said criminals who forcibly administer acid to their victims, mostly women, in abusive marital homes deserve punishment more stringent than under anti-terror laws such as the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act.

A Bench headed by Chief Justice of India Surya Kant was hearing a petition filed by an acid attack survivor, Shaheen Malik, seeking specifically to bring survivors who were made to ingest acid, and with a criminal case registered against their attackers, to be brought under the protective umbrella of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016.

> They are a threat to society and to the rule of the law. Their punishment should be more stringent than under the UAPA
>
> **SURYA KANT**
> Chief Justice of India

The Chief Justice asked the Centre to change the penal and bail laws to punish the perpetrators of this "most ruthless, most heinous" of crimes. It said the government should consider a comprehensive policy framework to protect the survivors.

The court said the accused, found guilty, must be made to pay a hefty penalty to their victims.

Justice Joymalya Bagchi, the other judge on the Bench, said that survivors made to ingest acid would have no visible marks on the body, but their vital organs would be corroded. They would require long-term treatment which a person from a lower income background would not be able to afford.

"These people who exhibit such barbarism on a fellow human being have no right to roam around in society. They are a threat to society and to the rule of the law. Their punishment should be more stringent than under the UAPA," Chief Justice Kant observed.

The Centre, represented by Solicitor-General Tushar Mehta, said such crimes were a result of sheer "animal instinct".

In the previous hearing on December 4, the apex court was shocked to learn that the trial in Ms. Malik's case was pending even after 16 years. Ms. Malik, who was then 26, was attacked outside her workplace. She had reportedly undergone 25 reconstructive surgeries.

On Thursday, the court said steps must be taken to complete the trial in the case by December 31.

SC flags 'case pile-up' amid Lakhimpur Kheri trial

Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Thursday expressed shock on learning that the trial court judge hearing the Lakhimpur Kheri killings case has 789 trials pending before him, stating that it is not "humanly possible" for a single judicial officer to handle such a burden.

"Please think of creating some more courts... It is humanly impossible for one trial judge to deal with so many trials," Chief Justice Surya Kant told the Additional Advocate General of Uttar Pradesh.

The case concerns an incident in 2021 when several people were mowed down during an anti-farm law protest in the district.

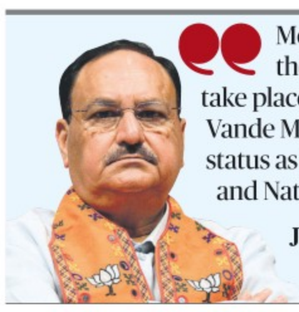
Debate on *Vande Mataram* only to set the record straight: Nadda

BJP chief accuses Congress of neglecting *Vande Mataram*; during a debate in Rajya Sabha, he claims that Jawaharlal Nehru was dismissive of song's cultural significance; Jairam Ramesh says National Song and Anthem always enjoyed equal status

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The debate on the 150th anniversary of *Vande Mataram* was not intended to tarnish the image of former Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru, but to set the record straight, Union Minister and BJP president J.P. Nadda said on Thursday, concluding the discussion in the Rajya Sabha.

Mr. Nadda alleged that successive Congress governments had failed to accord the respect due to the National Song. "*Vande Mataram* did not receive the respect it deserved... those in power at that time were responsible for that situation," he said.



> Meaningful discussion on the 150th anniversary can take place only if we resolve that Vande Mataram has the same status as the National Anthem and National Flag
>
> **J.P. NADDA**
> Union Minister and BJP president

Criticising the Congress for what he called "opportunism", Mr. Nadda said, "If you take credit for achievements during Nehru's regime, then you also have to take responsibility for everything that went wrong."

He pointed out that the Prevention of Insults to National Honour Act, 1971, does not prescribe any penalty for disrespecting or refusing to sing *Vande Mataram*. "The respect and status that *Vande Mataram* was to be accorded, it did not receive, and those in power at the time are fully responsible," he said.

Mr. Nadda said that Nehru was dismissive of the song's cultural significance, citing archival remarks to support his argument. He said that Nehru did not have a high opinion about the song. He accused the Congress of compromising India's cultural ethos "right from the beginning", adding, "The country is not run by making compromises. It is governed by unconditional national sentiments. *Vande Mataram* is linked to our nationalism."

Calling for constitutional recognition, Mr. Nadda said, "Meaningful discussion on the 150th anniversary can take place only if we resolve that *Vande Mataram* has the same status as the National Anthem and National Flag."

Congress leader Jairam Ramesh said the National Song and Anthem had always enjoyed equal status, recalling that India's first President, Rajendra Prasad, had affirmed this on January 24, 1950.

Ajay Maken says BJP has 75 times more funds than Cong. in its poll account

Sobhana K. Nair
NEW DELHI

The Bharatiya Janata Party has 75 times more funds than the Congress in its official election account, Congress treasurer and Rajya Sabha member Ajay Maken said, opening the debate in the Rajya Sabha on electoral reforms on Thursday.

Such an imbalance in resources between the two leading parties of the country destroys the level playing field, which is one of "three cornerstones for a healthy democracy", the other two being "transparency" and "credibility" of polling and related processes, Mr. Maken said.

In the 20 years since 2004, the BJP's bank balance had increased from ₹87.96 crore to ₹10,107.2 crore and that of the Congress from ₹38.48 crore to ₹133.97 crore, Mr. Maken said. He said that in 2004, the BJP's bank balance was ₹87.96 crore compared with the Congress's ₹38 crore. In 2009, the Congress had ₹221 crore and the BJP ₹150 crore. By 2019, the gap had widened, with the BJP holding ₹3,562 crore – 11 times higher than the Congress's ₹315 crore. "In 2024, the BJP had ₹10,107.2 crore, while the Congress had ₹133.97 crore. The BJP had 75 times more money than the Congress," he said.

Speaking up: Congress MP Ajay Maken speaking in the Rajya Sabha during the Winter Session of Parliament on Thursday. SANSAD TV

Mr. Maken accused the government of unleashing the Enforcement Directorate and Income Tax Department on the Congress to deprive it of funds just ahead of elections, while also using the agencies to prevent businesspersons and big industrialists from donating to the party.

Mr. Maken accused the Election Commission of being biased, citing the example of the Bihar government rolling out the Mukhyamantri Mahila Rozgar Yojana when the Model Code of Conduct was in place. Mr. Maken asked, "If the umpire wears the jersey of a team, what will the other team do? If the umpire itself fixes the match, what will the players do?"

Mr. Maken accused the EC of not providing machine-readable electoral rolls, hiding IP addresses, and destroying evidence within 45 days.

In reply, BJP member Sudhanshu Trivedi accused the Congress of creating a ruckus, instead of using the avenues available to them to seek redress of their grievances. Taking the example of a cricket match, he said when a team feels a batter was out, but the umpire had not declared so, they can seek a review. However, instead of going to the umpire for a review, the Congress has been holding press conferences, in anticipation that the third umpire would give the decision on his own.

Panel on simultaneous polls gets more time

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The tenure of the Joint Committee of Parliament examining the Bills that seek to introduce simultaneous polls to the Lok Sabha and Legislative Assemblies was extended on Thursday.

Committee chairman P.P. Chaudhary moved in the Lok Sabha a motion seeking extension of the tenure of the Joint Committee on the Constitution (129th Amendment) Bill, 2024, and the Union Territories Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2024, up to the first day of the last week of the 2026 Budget session.

The motion was adopted by a voice vote in the Lok Sabha.

A motion seeking extension of panel's tenure was adopted by a voice vote in the Lok Sabha

Mr. Chaudhary said on Wednesday that preparation of the report on the Bills would take time because the committee had to listen to many stakeholders. "The report will take time. We have to listen to many stakeholders. It should be done after listening to all stakeholders because it's a very big election reform," he had said after a meeting of the committee in the Parliament House complex.

The committee has met constitutional experts, economists, Law Commission Chairman Dinesh Maheshwari, and others, since it was constituted last December.

Senior Supreme Court lawyer Kapil Sibal, who is also an Independent Rajya Sabha member, appeared before the committee as an expert on Wednesday and answered queries on the Bills.

Shah's reply in Lok Sabha showed he is 'under pressure', says Congress

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi on Thursday reiterated that he had challenged Home Minister Amit Shah to a debate on "vote *chori*" on the floor of the House, and said the Home Minister seemed to be "under pressure".

The Congress also took on Mr. Shah for his claim that Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel had received more votes than Jawaharlal Nehru in the Congress presidential election in 1946.

"He [Shah] used the wrong language, his hands were shaking, you would have seen all this. He is under pressure mentally and that was witnessed in Parliament, the whole country saw it," Mr. Gandhi told presspersons in the Parliament House. "The things I have said, he did not address, did not give proof. We have said it publicly in press conferences. I directly challenged him to discuss my press conferences in Parliament, but did not get an answer."

Hitting out: Congress leader Rahul Gandhi during the Winter Session of Parliament in New Delhi on Thursday. PTI

On Wednesday, Opposition MPs, including Mr. Gandhi, staged a walkout in the Lok Sabha during the debate on electoral reforms, claiming that the Home Minister did not respond to any of the points raised by him and remained evasive on various issues, including transparent voter lists and EVMs and granting immunity to the Chief Election Commissioner.

On Thursday, the party also contested Mr. Shah's allegations that the first "vote *chori*" took place in the Congress when Nehru became party president and thereafter the interim Prime Minister despite Patel getting more votes.

Congress communications chief Jairam Ramesh shared a video of a party colleague on his X handle, and said, "My colleague Piyush Babele has totally exposed one of the HM's many lies."

"The truth is that the election that had to take place in 1946 for Congress presidentship did not take place," Mr. Babele said in the video.

Mr. Babele said the Pradesh Congress Committees had sent their recommendations and a majority of them had spoken in favour of Patel but it must be remembered that the opinion of PCCs had no legal standing. "It had become a tradition that whomsoever Mahatma Gandhi chooses becomes the president and that also holds true for 1946," he added.

Govt. denies Rahul Gandhi's charge on exclusion of the marginalised from top posts

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Union government on Thursday countered the assertion of Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi that only 7% of the candidates put forward by the government for the appointment of the Chief Information Commissioner (CIC), eight Information Commissioners, and Vigilance Commissioner were from marginalised communities.

Government sources said that for the eight vacant posts of Information Commissioner, the government had recommended one name each from the Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, Other Backward Class and a minority community, and a woman. "So, there were five candidates from the marginalised communities for the eight posts being considered, which shows that Rahul Gandhi's assertions do not hold up," said the source.

Dissent notes

Mr. Gandhi had reportedly made the assertion, according to Congress sources, in his dissent notes following a meeting of the high-level committee, comprising Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Home Minister Amit Shah and Mr. Gandhi, which met on Wednesday to finalise the names of the next Chief Information Commissioner, eight Information Commissioners and a Vigilance Commissioner.

The meeting ran for nearly 90 minutes but ended without any names getting the approval of all three, after Mr. Gandhi reportedly submitted detailed dissent notes.

Government sources also shared a comparison of appointments of candidates from marginalised communities under the regimes of the United Progress Alliance and the National Democratic Alliance to stress their point.

"Between 2005 and 2014, under the UPA, not a single person was appointed as either a member or the chairperson of the Commission. It was under the NDA, in 2018, that a member, Suresh Chandra, belonging to the Scheduled Tribes was appointed. In 2020, Heeralal Samariya, was appointed and in 2023 he became Chief Information Commissioner, the first-ever candidate from the Scheduled Castes to be appointed to that position," said a source.

Three-judge Bench to hear plea on online gaming law

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Thursday witnessed a brief debate on whether Parliament was actually "competent" to enact the new online gaming law, which banned real money games, related banking services and advertisements.

The hearing witnessed an exchange among the Chief Justice and the lawyers on the point if online gaming could be classified as a 'betting and gambling' activity. Only the States had jurisdiction to make laws to govern these activities. The CJI indicated that the petitions would come up before a three-judge Bench in January for a hearing on whether "Parliament had acted beyond its competence" to enact the Promotion and Regulation of Online Gaming Act.

'My government has shown commitment to meaningful, practical reforms'

Marking three years in office, the Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister says *Vyavastha Parivartan*, an idea coined by him, has moved from concept to reality, addressing outdated rules that hindered welfare implementation; he slams the Centre for indifference towards the State, says his govt. released aid from its own limited resources for disaster-hit people in 2023-24 and it still awaits pending dues

INTERVIEW

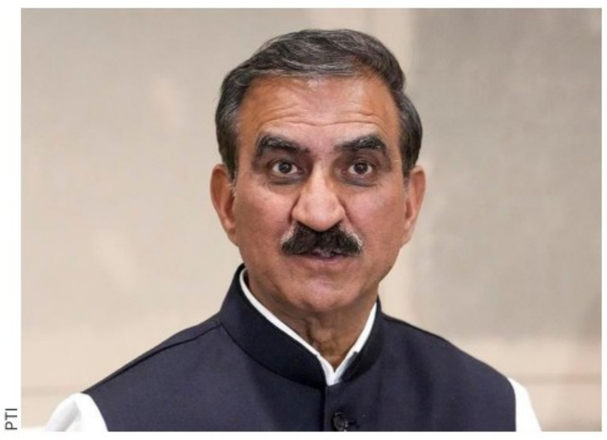
Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu

Vikas Vasudeva
Sandeep Phukan
CHANDIGARH

Completing three years in power, Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu says that there has been considerable progress in implementing the idea of *Vyavastha Parivartan* (transforming the system) in governance since the party formed its government in 2022. The Congress leader accuses the Centre of indifference, as the disaster-hit State still awaits promised relief. Exited excerpts:

Three years in, how would you evaluate the progress of *Vyavastha Parivartan*, an idea coined by you?

The *Vyavastha Parivartan* initiative has moved from concept to reality, addressing outdated rules that hindered welfare implementation. When severe monsoon floods struck the State in 2023, existing disaster relief regulations proved inadequate. The Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana's standard assistance of ₹1.3 lakh was insufficient for rebuilding damaged houses. How could anyone build a house with such a meagre amount? We amended the relief manual to increase disaster housing assistance to ₹8 lakh – the highest in the country. In education, strategic reforms such as including English-medium instruction and Rajiv Gandhi Day-Boarding schools, propelled Himachal from 21st to 5th position nationally in the 2024 National Achievement Survey. Healthcare infrastructure has been modernised with advanced facilities and robotic surgery introduced at premier medical colleges in Shimla and Kangra. These systemic changes demonstrate the government's commitment to meaningful, practical reforms across critical sectors.



PTI

You have maintained that your government inherited a huge financial burden. What steps has your administration taken to improve the State's fiscal health?

We inherited severe financial distress – ₹75,000-crore debt and ₹10,000-crore employee liabilities – exposing the failure of the BJP's 'double-engine' government. After we implemented the Old Pension Scheme, the Centre imposed restrictions, cutting ₹1,600 crore. The revenue deficit grant has been reduced from ₹10,249 crore (2021-22) to ₹3,256 crore (2025-26). Despite these pressures, our fiscal prudence and reforms generated ₹26,683 crore revenue over two-and-a-half years – ₹3,800 crore higher than the previous BJP regime's average.

Himachal had faced devastating monsoon rains during your tenure. How is the State coping with regular natural calamities?

In 2023-24, we released ₹4,500 crore from our own limited resources for disaster-affected people. Despite the Centre assessing losses at ₹9,300 crore, they cleared only ₹2,000 crore under Post-Disaster Needs Assessment – that too after two years. Regrettably, out of this amount, the State has received only ₹451 crore so far. This year, Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced ₹1,500 crore assistance, which is still pending, reflecting the Centre's indifference.

You have articulated a vision to develop Himachal as the 'Tourism capital of India' and Kangra district as its hub. Are you anywhere near achieving this goal?

Yes, I believe our government is moving towards this vision. We have built a strong foundation for tourism-led growth. Projects worth ₹3,000 crore are under way and Kangra is being developed as the tourism capital of the State with airport expansion and new tourism assets.

The BJP criticises the Himachal government for not fulfilling poll guarantees (such as a scheme to provide ₹1,500 monthly to women). What do you have to say?

The Opposition's criticism is entirely politically motivated. We have provided ₹1,500 to as many as 35,687 women in a phased manner under the 'Indira Gandhi Pyari Behna Sukh Samaan Nidhi' scheme. Besides, we have enhanced social security pension of over 2.37 lakh women, who were earlier receiving ₹1,000 or ₹1,150 under various social security schemes, to ₹1,500.

INBRIEF

Navy chief's Brazil visit to boost defence partnership

The Chief of the Naval Staff, Admiral Dinesh K. Tripathi, who is on an official visit to Brazil from December 9 to 12, held a series of high-level meetings with senior Brazilian leadership to deepen the expanding India-Brazil defence partnership. During his engagements, Admiral Tripathi met Celso Amorim, Chief Advisor to the President of Brazil, and José Múcio Monteiro, Brazil's Minister of Defence. The discussions offered a comprehensive review of the growing defence cooperation between the two countries, with focus on strengthening strategic collaboration, expanding training exchanges and improving maritime security mechanisms.

3 dead in Chhattisgarh after occult ritual goes wrong

Three men died following an occult ritual intended to multiply money in Chhattisgarh's Korba district on Wednesday. According to the police, the victims were strangled during the ritual, which was believed to increase wealth. Five persons, including a tantrik, have been detained in connection with the incident, Korba Superintendent of Police Siddharth Tewari said. Two of the deceased, Mohammad Ashraf Memon and Suresh Sahu, were from Korba, while one, Nitish Kumar, was from Baloda Bazaar. The rituals were performed in a closed room on land belonging to Memon, in Korba's Kudri village. An inquiry is ongoing, and on Thursday evening, the police were awaiting the post-mortem report.

Modi speaks to Trump on bilateral ties over phone

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Days after hosting Russian President Vladimir Putin for a bilateral summit, Prime Minister Narendra Modi held a telephone conversation with U.S. President Donald Trump on Thursday.

"Had a very warm and engaging conversation with President Trump. We reviewed the progress in our bilateral relations and discussed regional and international developments. India and the U.S. will continue to work together for global peace, stability and prosperity," said Prime Minister Modi after the telephone conversation.

The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said the conversation dealt with bilateral relations as well as "key regional and global developments".

"The two leaders reviewed the progress in the India-U.S. Comprehensive Global Strategic Partnership and expressed satisfaction at the steady strengthening of bilateral cooperation across all domains," a government press note stated. They exchanged views on intensifying cooperation in "critical technologies, energy, defence and security and other priority areas, it said.

DPIIT signals Copyright Act changes to address AI issues

DPIIT proposes 'blanket licensing', to let AI firms train LLMs by scraping the Internet, pay royalties once models are commercialised; firms say publishers should be able to opt out from data sharing

Aroon Deep
NEW DELHI

The Union government is working to make changes to the copyright law, necessitated by the new demands of artificial intelligence, within the next three years, a senior official said on Thursday.

The Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) released a working paper on AI and copyright issues last week. It suggested a "blanket licensing" framework, where websites whose data is crawled by large language models (LLMs) like ChatGPT would receive royalty payouts through a copyright society which would split the money between them.

The proposal aims to resolve the growing tensions worldwide between online content publishers and AI firms, who "train" their LLMs with a large amount of text data, usually scraped from the public Internet. Publishers have argued that they need to be compensated because of their contribution in developing and improving these models.

DPIIT proposes royalties for websites whose data is used by LLMs, to be distributed via a copyright society. REPRESENTATIVE IMAGE

The DPIIT proposal suggests generally allowing the scraping of content by AI developers while ensuring that they eventually pay content publishers.

This will be followed by another working paper that will look into whether AI-generated works are copyrightable, and how authorship is decided for them, DPIIT Additional Secretary Himani Pande said in a news briefing. Following this, the government is likely to move an amendment to the Copyright Act, 1957 in Parliament to establish the new regime.

Ms. Pande said that the copyright society, known as the Copyright Royalties Collective for AI Training (CRCAT), would only seek payments from AI firms once they commercialise their models, as opposed to when they are mining data from the Internet to develop or train them.

The compensation of copyright holders has been a contentious issue, with news publishers in particular suing AI firms around the world. Newswire agency ANI, and *The New York Times* are among those who have sued ChatGPT developer OpenAI for allegedly regurgitating their content in chat conversations. OpenAI has denied their accusations.

Tech industry body Nasscom, which had one seat in the committee that drafted this report, dissented from the model proposed by the DPIIT. The body, which represents Google, Meta, Amazon, and other large firms with significant AI investments, said that publishers should be able to opt out of including their data in training models, warning that a blanket licensing model could expose firms to further disputes.

In a note shared with *The Hindu*, a Big Tech firm that develops AI models raised concerns about the DPIIT proposal. "As per stated copyright jurisprudence, the burden of proof to establish infringement is on the copyright owner who is making the claim," it says. "The Hybrid proposal reverses this. It is well established in copyright law that in a copyright infringement suit, the plaintiff (content owner) must prove that the defendant (AI developer) infringed their copyright. If the burden of proof is on the AI Developer then they have to prove that they have not used the content owner's material even if the output is similar. This is extremely onerous and technically infeasible because Gen AI tools are probabilistic and not deterministic."

Five held for beating man over 'feeding a cow chicken'

Ashok Kumar
GURUGRAM

Three days after a digital creator was beaten by self-styled cow vigilantes for allegedly feeding chicken momos to a cow during a live stream, the Gurugram Police on Thursday arrested five persons on charges of criminal intimidation, rioting, and voluntarily causing hurt.

The 29-year-old digital creator, Ritik Chandna, a resident of Gurugram, was earlier arrested on December 8 on charges of committing a deliberate act intended to outrage religious feelings and mischief by killing or maiming any animal.

Mr. Ritik's father Krishan Chandna in the FIR on Mr. Ritik's attack had said: "Some unknown people claiming to be 'gau rakshaks' came to our house after watching the video. They made my son livestream his apology in my presence. He was kicked, punched and slapped and they threatened to kill us. My family is scared."

Police spokesperson Sandeep Kumar said Mr. Ritik had accepted a challenge to eat 100 momos and was live-streaming it when he fed the momos to a cow at the request of an audience member.

IndiGo offers vouchers to affected passengers

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

IndiGo on Thursday announced that it will offer travel vouchers worth ₹10,000 to each passenger whose flights were cancelled or delayed for long during December 3-5.

The compensation will be in addition to the amount that needs to be provided to passengers for flight cancellations under DGCA norms.

In a statement, IndiGo said it regrettably acknowledges that part of its customers travelling on December 3, 4 and 5 were severely impacted by congestion. "We will offer travel vouchers worth ₹10,000 to such severely impacted customers. These can be used for any future IndiGo journey for the next 12 months," it said.

SC says 'migration' in SIR order may include illegal crossings into India

Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Thursday said that "migration" stated in the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) order could include illegal crossings into India, underscoring the Election Commission of India's reason to verify citizenship.

"The cities in India are more urbanised, economically viable for our neighbouring populations. Will not the movement of these populations across the international border amount to 'migration'?" Justice Joymalya Bagchi, part of a Bench headed by Chief Justice of India Surya Kant, asked.

The question was directed at senior advocate Raju Ramachandran and advocate Prasanna S., appearing for Tamil Nadu Communist Party of India (Marxist) leader P. Shanmugam.

The Chief Justice noted that there were limits to judicial interference in the SIR process.

Mr. Ramachandran was arguing that the citizenship verification drive conducted in the name of SIR was not one of the reasons stated by the Election Commission (EC) on June 24, 2025, to justify the need to embark on the exercise, which is now in its second phase across 12 States and Union Territories.

Senior counsel said that rapid urbanisation and "frequent migration of population from one place to another on account of education, livelihood and other reasons" were the motives stated by the EC on June 24 for holding the SIR.

"But migration can be trans-country," Justice Bagchi observed.

Chief Justice Kant noted that an SIR was being held after two decades, and said there were limits to judicial interference in the process. The SIR was not an "annual feature".

Mr. Ramachandran responded that it was precisely because of the 20-year gap that the EC should have applied its mind more carefully. He said the June 24 SIR order was Bihar-specific, yet the EC had copy-pasted the same reasons for conducting the exercise in industrialised States like Tamil Nadu.

He questioned why the EC had embarked on a mission to verify citizenship when an adequate statutory mechanism was already in place.

"If there is already a concerned person who is acting by law against suspicious people in the neighbourhood, why does the EC act like a more suspicious neighbour or a nosy parker? The Constitution does not give the EC power to play a vigilante role, an inquisitorial role," Mr. Ramachandran submitted.

The court asked whether the EC could not, through the SIR, check one of the constitutional imperatives, citizenship, necessary for inclusion in the electoral roll. The CJI queried whether the EC could use Aadhaar and other documents to verify the genuineness of a claim to be included in the voters' list.

Aadhaar app to enable offline sharing by exposing minimal data: UIDAI CEO

Aroon Deep
NEW DELHI

A new Aadhaar app under testing will minimise the amount of data from the 12-digit unique identity to be shared in public places such as hotels, and enable sharing of selective information as and when it is needed, Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) CEO Bhuvnesh Kumar told *The Hindu* in an interview.

"This is what we want Aadhaar to be," Mr. Kumar said, displaying a dense QR code in the Aadhaar app, which is set to be formally launched and promoted after incorporating more features and undergoing a public test. The app is already available on mobile app marketplaces. The dense QR code represents all the data of an Aadhaar user, including their photo, completely offline.

Bhuvnesh Kumar

Impossible to forge

The QR code would be scanned by others using the Aadhaar app, and since it is digitally signed by the UIDAI using standard cryptographic techniques, it would be practically impossible to forge. The feature would also reduce the issue of images or PDF documents featuring forged Aadhaar details.

This would make Aadhaar the only ID "which is verifiable offline", Mr. Kumar said. In recent rule amendments, UIDAI introduced the concept of "Offline Verification Seeking Entities", or OVSEs.

OVSEs would be public places like hotel receptions, which would be "discouraged", Mr. Kumar said, from asking guests to share physical copies of Aadhaar, and would instead receive a digitally authenticated record of visitors' Aadhaar, with an assurance that the details are legitimate.

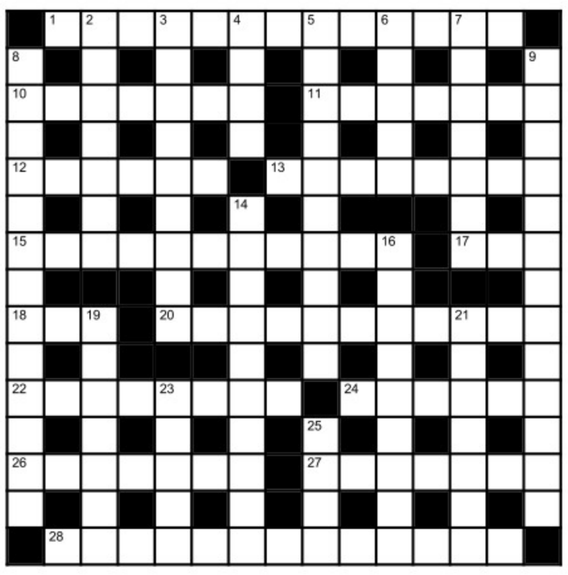
Mr. Kumar ruled out an outright prohibition of storing physical ID details, as this may exclude those without a smartphone.

TH CROSSWORD + 14663

(set by Vidwan)

Solve this puzzle online and access more puzzles at *https://crossword.thehindu.com*

SCAN TO PLAY



Across

1 Corporate pass to work in USA with locals crossing borders (13)
10 Bits of treats, usually cookies, kept at buffet (4,3)
11 Swimmer can endlessly shift waves (7)
12 Reply quietly, passing time for recount (6)
13 Attacked vehemently when son was sick (8)
15 Popular suggestion - banning bold holy books or abstractions (11)
17 Pull for work (3)
18 Not a walk for cheap fellow (3)
20 Hospital Ophelia! I am sick with uncontrollable bleeding! (11)
22 Only ego and love involved in science of making wines (8)
24 Nightmares in certain cubicles (6)
26 Abomination from toon country, possibly (7)
27 A way to travel with legs on either side (7)
28 Destabilising current throne to reach safe position (4,3,6)

Down

2 Angrily I cut cop's head at the back (7)
3 City near incomplete arena with the endless maze (9)
4 Lad holding cross, square in shape and plain (4)
5 Fish tosses nut scratching backside (4,6)
6 Four kinds of fish (5)
7 Animal doctor hold new line of small conduits for carrying a vital liquid (7)
8 Opening talk about promiscuous lady's love consumed by ale (8,5)
9 Advertisement during show? It can be about opposition counterparts of the ministers (6,7)
14 Not new gramophone, I'm excited for an old age stencil copier (10)
16 Ring shaped muscle of tailless mythical creature, more attractive without slightest of utility (9)
19 Bird with habitat in a mountain (7)
21 Setting clue in English for an amino acid (7)
23 Buttermilk from Phultala, Bangladesh (5)
25 Mostly chat about a cosmetic powder (4)

SUDOKU

	3			9				4
			3		2			
	2			7	5		1	
5						2	9	
		2				7		
	7	6						5
	1		9	2			7	
			6		3			
6				5			4	

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★☆☆

No.SS6728 Distribution: www.knightfeatures.com

Solution to previous puzzle

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

9	2	3	8	1	5	6	7	4
1	7	8	2	4	6	9	3	5
4	5	6	3	9	7	8	2	1
7	9	5	4	2	3	1	6	8
3	6	4	5	8	1	2	9	7
8	1	2	7	6	9	5	4	3
2	8	1	6	3	4	7	5	9
5	4	9	1	7	2	3	8	6
6	3	7	9	5	8	4	1	2

FAITH

Dhruv's bhakti

In the Bhagavad Gita, Lord Krishna says, "Whoever performs my nama sankirtan without inhibition, I will protect him and offer him a unique place in the universe." This came true in the life of Dhruv. Longing for the comfort of his father's lap, he received divine blessings – and darshan of Perumal Himself, who honoured Dhruv with a pole star, because of his devotion, said Damal Perundevi.

Narayana Bhattathiri narrates this in an exquisitely nuanced manner in Narayaneeyam. Dhruv, born to Suniti and King Uttanapada, is set aside, along with his mother, after the arrival of Suruchi, the king's second wife, and is raised by his mother outside the palace. When teased by his friends for lack of a father figure at home, Dhruv questions his mother, who tells him the truth. Determined to show off his father to his friends, the child rushes to the palace, and the guards, who know his history, let him proceed unhindered. When Dhruv sees his father fondling the son born through Suruchi on his lap, Dhruv tries to sit on his other lap. Suruchi stops him and advises him to undertake severe penance to enjoy such a status.

When the boy rushes home, the mother tells him to pray to Vishnu, teaching him early in life to focus on the permanent things, and not get sidetracked by human frailty. The boy sets off, much to the worry of devas. Sage Narada tries to stop the boy from proceeding to the forest, but Dhruv merely says, "Point me in the right direction." Narada guides him and imparts the mantra, '*Om namo bhagavate Vasudevaya*". Dhruv chants the mantra while undertaking severe penance and Vishnu appears to the child and blesses him.

INBRIEF

Fed lowers rates, signals pause and one cut next year

A sharply divided Federal Reserve cut interest rates on Wednesday but signalled borrowing costs are unlikely to drop further in the near term as it awaits clarity on the direction of a job market showing signs of softening, inflation that "remains somewhat elevated" and an economy it sees picking upstream next year. New policymaker projections showed a median expectation for a single quarter-percentage-point cut next year, the same as in September. REUTERS

HC junks octroi evasion case against Kochhar, ICICI officials

The Bombay High Court has quashed criminal proceedings against former ICICI Bank CEO and MD Chanda Kochhar, former Deputy MD Dr. Nachiket Mor, legal department member Vasudeo Kulkarni, and Pune branch manager Asavari Patankar in a case alleging evasion of octroi on gold bullion imports into Pune city limits. The complaint against ICICI Bank, will however, proceed before the Judicial Magistrate First Class (JMFC), Pune.

Rupee slips to record low, but RBI likely curbs losses

The Indian rupee declined to a record low on Thursday, deepening its fall past the 90-per-dollar mark as corporate dollar sales and the lack of tangible progress towards a trade deal with the U.S. hurt Asia's worst-performing currency. The rupee has fallen more than 5% against the dollar in 2025, as U.S. tariffs of up to 50% on Indian goods have hurt exports to the country's biggest market and diminished the appeal of local equities. The RBI likely intervened to help avert steeper losses, 5 traders said. REUTERS

Nov. equity MF netflows rise 21% to ₹29,000 cr.

Ashokamithran T.
MUMBAI

Net inflows into equity mutual funds increased 21% ₹29,911 crore in November 2025, according to data from the Association of Mutual Funds of India. The number was ₹24,690.33 crore in October 2025.

This is the first time in four months that mutual fund inflows have increased. The 21% increase comes after three consecutive months of decline.

The monthly flows are still 43% lower than the yearly high of ₹42,702.35 crore in July 2025.

"Equity oriented schemes continued to drive growth, supported by sustained inflows. Hybrid and passive funds also saw healthy traction, with multi-asset and arbitrage funds together accounting for over 70% of hybrid category flows," said Venkat Chalasani, CEO of AMFI.

Mexico's 2024 tariffs could still hurt India's auto exports

In April 2024, the country imposed tariffs ranging from 5-50% on a range of items imported from non-FTA partners for a period of 2 years; impact on India may be largely felt on auto sector

T.C.A. Sharad Raghavan
NEW DELHI

The tariffs of up to 50% approved by Mexico's Senate on Wednesday on imports from Asian countries, including India, have been in place since April 2024 and will not have a material impact on India's overall export picture, an analysis of trade data shows. However, they could continue to impact particular sectors, such as automobiles.

As per the Senate's decision, the tariffs are expected to apply from January 1, 2026, and will apply to countries with which Mexico does not have a free trade agreement, which includes India. However, documents on the Mexican government's website show that these tariffs are not new. In April 2024, the country imposed tariffs ranging from 5-50% on a range of items imported from non-FTA partners for a period of two years. The Senate's move this December is an extension of that original decision.

India exported $5.7 billion worth of goods to Mexico in 2024-25, which works out to 1.3% of its total exports that year, showing that at an aggregate level, higher tariffs would not pose a significant threat to India's overall export scenario.

However, not only are these exports dominated by a few sectors, Mexico is a major recipient of those sectors' exports, which means the tariffs could pose a risk to them.

For example, motor cars and their parts made up $1.4 billion or 25% of India's exports to Mexico. In addition, motorcycle exports make up an additional 7% of India's exports to Mexico. What places these sectors at more risk than others is that Mexico is one of the largest markets for several of these items. For example, Mexico accounts for about 10% of India's total auto and auto part exports. Mexico constitutes about 12% of India's motorcycle exports.

'Start FTA talks'

In reaction to the April 2024 tariffs and the subsequent impact they were having on trade, the Engineering Exports Promotion Council (EEPC) wrote to Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal asking him to begin talks with Mexico on a potential FTA.

MARKETS

MARKET WATCH

	THURSDAY	% CHANGE
Sensex	84,818	0.51
US Dollar	90.32	-0.42
Gold	1,32,490	0.06
Brent oil	60.91	-0.83

NIFTY 50

	PRICE	CHANGE
Adani Enter	2277.70	66.10
Adani Ports	1504.00	5.90
Apollo Hosp	7009.50	-9.00
Asian Paints	2779.40	-25.10
Axis Bank	1272.70	-5.90
Bajaj Auto	9053.50	62.50
Bajaj Finserv	2065.80	0.00
Bajaj Finance	1006.40	-3.90
Bharat Elec	387.50	0.15
Bharti Airtel	2053.20	-13.80
Cipla	1512.30	21.40
Coal India	384.00	1.85
Dr Reddys Lab	1273.50	22.70
Hindustan Unilever	40.20	0.00
Eicher Motors	7256.00	27.50
Eternal Ltd.	290.95	7.70
Grasim Ind	2797.80	51.00
HCL Tech	1672.40	6.40
HDFC Bank	1000.30	10.50
HDFC Life	775.20	4.15
Hindalco	824.35	2.60
Hind Unilever	2305.60	3.90
ICICI Bank	1360.00	-3.60
IntGlobeAvi	4819.00	13.50
Infosys	1598.00	13.20
ITC	402.90	-0.25
Jio Financial Services Ltd.	298.45	7.60
JSW Steel	1105.40	8.60
Kotak Bank	2180.20	50.70
L&T	4003.90	12.60
M&M	3665.20	35.20
Maruti Suzuki	16248.00	229.00
Max Healthcare	1087.90	10.80
NestleIndia	1215.00	5.70
NTPC	322.60	1.00
ONGC	238.41	-0.88
PowerGrid Corp	264.80	-0.70
Reliance Ind	1545.00	8.10
SBI Life	2006.90	-7.60
State Bank	963.25	3.50
Shriram Finance Ltd.	847.15	9.90
Sun Pharma	1807.20	21.70
TataConsumerProduct	1142.10	2.00
Tata Steel	166.38	4.15
TCS	3191.90	2.70
Tech Mahindra	1568.20	17.40
Titan	3844.80	-0.90
Tata Motors PV	346.65	3.25
Trent Ltd.	4047.50	29.20
UltraTech Cement	11472.00	155.00
Wipro	259.25	1.27

Prada signs MoU to sell Kohlapuris at India-Italy forum

Ashokamithran T.
MUMBAI

Italian fashion brand Prada plans to sell Kohlapuri slippers as it signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with the leather development corporations of Karnataka and Maharashtra, at the India-Italy business forum in Mumbai on Thursday.

Three more MoUs included a Steel Authority of India Ltd. (SAIL) project awarded to Italian metal equipment maker Danieli Group. Neopolis Brands Pvt. Ltd. entered into an MoU with Kuvera S.p.A. to open 100 stores of the Italian retail fashion firm, and a joint venture between Ace Brass Pvt Ltd and Cavagna group with the latter holding 51% stake.

Negotiations include sectors like automobiles, agrifood, agritech, sports tech and textiles.

The Italian delegation was headed by Deputy Prime Minister Antonio Tavajani. Speaking on the occasion, Mr. Tavajani said efforts will be made to conclude the trade deals in six months.

Fuel rules tweaked to ease business: Puri

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Petroleum and Natural Gas Rules (2025) have been amended to offer ease of business and operations, Union Minister Hardeep Singh Puri informed on Thursday.

Among the more important of the amendments, it provides for granting long duration leases, that is, up to 30 years from the present 20 years, more importantly, which can be extended to the "life of the field". This allows a potential lessee to make an informed investment decision for a longer horizon.

Further, those availing the lease, will have the right to carry out all types of mineral oil operation with just a single petroleum lease.

Brakes India, TBK sign pact

Brakes India Pvt. Ltd. and TBK Co. Ltd. have signed a capital and business alliance agreement, the Chennai-based firm said in a release.

'Work closely to spur crude oil source diversification'

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas (MoPNG) should work closely with the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) and other concerned government agencies to boost diplomatic engagement with oil-producing countries, secure favourable investment terms and address tax and regulatory hurdles faced by public-sector enterprises (PSEs) abroad, the Parliamentary Committee on Public Undertakings (2025-26) stated in their latest report tabled Wednesday.

Stressing on the need for diversification of crude oil sources, the committee observed notwithstanding proactive efforts being made in this regard, challenges persist due to sanctions, financial market volatility and regulatory changes in host countries where overseas projects are located.

India imports for nearly 89% of domestic crude oil needs.

'Impact energy bill'

"These issues not only affect India's energy import bill but also impede the ability of CPSUs to secure overseas exploration and production assets, thereby limiting long-term energy security," it noted.

According to the committee headed by Member of Parliament from Kendrapara (Odisha) Baijayant Panda, India imports almost 89% of its domestic crude oil requirements.

In this context, it observed, "Recent global events, including the Russia-Ukraine conflict and tensions in the Middle East, have underscored the vulnerability of India's energy supply chain and its dependence on international trade flows."

To this effect, it recommended intensifying efforts towards diversification of sources both "geographically and contractually", risk management practices as hedging and flexible term contracts and enhancing alternate import routes, among other suggestions.

ICICI Pru AMC pre-IPO round nets ₹4,815 cr. in funding

Press Trust to India
NEW DELHI

As many as 26 domestic and foreign investors have infused ₹4,815 crore into ICICI Prudential Asset Management Company (AMC), a subsidiary of ICICI Bank, through a pre-IPO funding round.

As part of this transaction, the asset management company undertook a private placement of 22,240,841 equity shares at an issue price of ₹2,165 per share, according to its public announcement.

The fundraise drew participation from a diverse set of investors, including Lunate Capital, the Estate of late Rakesh Jhunjhunwala and market veterans Manish Chokani and Madhusudan Kela.

India seeing great momentum in AI, agentic AI deployments: Nadella

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

There's great momentum in India in terms of AI and agentic AI applications getting deployed, observed Satya Nadella, chairman and CEO, Microsoft.

Mr. Nadella delivered the keynote here as part of his AI Tour in India, which began in New Delhi two days ago with an announcement of a $17.5 billion investment in India.

Addressing a packed audience of developers, AI experts and technocrats, he said India would become the number one community in the world with GitHub by 2030.

Its about AI: Microsoft CEO Satya Nadella speaks during an event in Bengaluru, India on Thursday. REUTERS

He said it was fantastic to see the engagement and the type of projects coming out of Bengaluru and India. "We're building out GitHub as essentially Agent HQ (an agentic platform that unites every agent)," Mr. Nadella said.

Elaborating on the impact of agentic AI, he said a mindset shift was critical, even for developers. "We need even a new way to think about the frontier of the classic SDLC (software development life cycle), which has to change anew, AI- driven SDLC."

He added the real goal was to empower builders: software and technology developers, engineers and organisations to innovate at scale, assign intelligent tasks to AI agents and generate actionable insights.

APPOINTMENT

SAGARMALA
V.O.Chidambaranar Port Authority
Tuticorin-628 004.
(an Autonomous Body under MoPSW, GoI)

GAD-EST10ESTC/1/2025-GAD(7288)/D. Date:12.12.2025

V.O. Chidambaranar Port Authority invites applications for the following Positions:-
Engagement of Professional Functionaries on contractual basis:

Fields	Position	No.	Monthly Remuneration
Business Development and Trade Promotion, Information, Communication and Technology (ICT), Corporate Legal & Environment Planning and Safety	Senior Manager	2	Rs. 1,60,000/-
	Manager	6	Rs. 1,20,000/-
Total		8	

For details regarding experience, educational qualifications, etc., visit VOC Ports' website at www.vocport.gov.in (careers). Last date for the receipt of applications is 02.01.2026. Sd/- 12.12.2025
SECRETARY

MBM UNIVERSITY, JODHPUR
No. : MBMU/OIC/2025-26/1154 Date :- 06/12/2025
NOTICE INVITING BID
Bids are invited from interested eligible and experienced vendors/suppliers for the supply/provision of the following items/services at MBM University, Jodhpur. All other particulars of the bid may be visited on the portal **sppp.rajasthan.gov.in, eproc.rajasthan.gov.in and www.mbm.ac.in.**
1. Bids vide UBN No: MBM2526SLOB00067 for Cleaning and Sanitation of University Campus (North & South Academic and Hostel Campus), in MBM University, Jodhpur with estimated amount ₹158.00 Lakh and last date of bid submission 27.12.2025, 12:00 Noon.
2. Bids vide UBN No: MBM2526SLOB00068 for "E-Tender for "Online Portal /ERP Services in the MBM University, Jodhpur (QCBS) for session 2025-26, 26-27, 27-28" with estimated amount ₹270.00 Lakhs and last date of bid submission 27.12.2025 12:00 Noon.
Raj.Samwad/C/25/15533 OIC-Central Store

OFFICE OF ADDITIONAL DISTRICT PROJECT OFFICER
SAMGRA SIKSHA RAJSAMAND (RAJ.)
Room No.303, 305 Second Floor, Collectrate Campus Rajsamand
Email: rajsmsa.rajsamand@gmail.com, adpcrajsamand@rajasthan.gov.in
S.No.SMSA/RAJSAMAND/DMFT/Tender/2025-26/1037 Date: 02/12/2025
NOTICE INVITING E-BID (NIB 09/2025-26)
E-bids are invited for Establishment of STEAM Labs in 60 Government schools across Rajsamand (Rajasthan). Other Detail may be seen in bidding document at state public procurement portal website **www.sppp.rajasthan.gov.in** or website **www.eproc.rajasthan.gov.in**.
The time and date of submission of bid is as follows:

Last date and time to download and submission of Bid, and fees.	Date and time of bid opening (Technical Bid)
24-12-2025 4.00 PM	24-12-2025 5.00 PM

Estimated Cost : 900 Lac.
UBN No. RSE2526GLOB05217.
Add. District Project Co-Ordinator
Samagra Shiksha Rajsamand
DIPR/C/18262/2025

Vaikunth Mehta National Institute of Cooperative Management, Pune-411007
(A National Institute under the aegis of National Council for Cooperative Training (NCCT), Promoted by Ministry of Cooperation, Government of India)
Admissions Open - Academic Year 2026-27
Two- Years Post Graduate Diploma in Management (PGDM) Programs
AICTE Approved | Nationally Recognized | Industry-Integrated
- Post Graduate Diploma in Management- Agri-Business Management
- Post Graduate Diploma in Management with specialization in Cooperation

Eligibility:
- Bachelor's Degree (minimum 3 years) in any discipline with at least 50% marks (45% for SC/ST candidates)
- Valid Scores: CAT / XAT / CMAT / GMAT

Applying candidates can apply online on VAMNICOM website from 11th January 2026 to 31st March 2026 and pay Rs. 200/- through online. For more information please visit **www.vamnicom.gov.in**
Director, VAMNICOM

WEST BENGAL STATE ELECTRICITY TRANSMISSION COMPANY LIMITED
WBSETCL
(A Government of West Bengal Enterprise)
Registered Office: Vidyut Bhavan, Block-DJ, Sector-II, Bidhannagar, Kolkata-700 091
CIN: U40101WB2007SGC113474 • web: www.wbsetcl.in
NIT No.: CE(P)/WBSETCL/Moose/25-26/28 Date: 12.12.2025
E-Tender is invited from eligible bidders having experinece in doing similar nature of work for **supply of 100 K.M. of ACSR Moose Conductor**. Bid documents can be downloaded from **12.12.2025, 10:00 A.M.** and bids shall be submitted online up to **04:00 P.M., 13.01.2026.**
Visit the following websites - www.wbtenders.gov.in, www.wbsetcl.in for details.
ICA- T25362(3)/2025

Rajasthan State Road Development And Construction Corporation Ltd., JAIPUR
No. : NIT/2025-26/29263 - 74 **निविदा सूचना/2025-26** Date : 11/12/2025
निम्नलिखित कार्यों के लिए केन्द्र / राज्य सरकार के अभियांत्रिकी विभागों एवं उनके अधिकृत संगठनों में पंजीकृत एवं अनुभवी संवेदकों से निर्धारित प्रपत्र में ई-प्रोक्यूरमेन्ट प्रक्रिया हेतु ऑनलाइन निविदायें आमंत्रित की जाती है

कार्य का विवरण	कार्य की कुल अनु. लागत (रु.)	निविदा सूचना संख्या
Construction of ITI College at Anwana Osian, Jodhpur. UBN: RRC2526WLOB00998	609.34 Lakh	ई-549/25-26
Construction of Classroom & Faculty Chamber at National Law University in Jodhpur. UBN: RRC2526WSOB00999	316.00 Lakh	ई-550/25-26
Approach Road and External Development work for new Hospital Block at Hanumangarh, Rajasthan. UBN: RRC2526WSOB01007	300.35 Lakh	ई-557/25-26

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NIMHANS will be conducting the Walk-in Interview for the posts of Non-PG Senior Resident and Non-PG Junior Resident under various departments purely on contract basis. The interviews are scheduled to be held on **02.01.2026** and **03.01.2026 @ 09:00 AM** at the **Seminar Hall, 1st Floor, Director's Office, NIMHANS, Bengaluru – 560 029**
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Sl. NO.	Tender ID	Description	Estimate in Rs.
1	66666	O & M of water Supply & Periodical Maintenance of Fire Hydrant line system in plant & Township	107.29 Lakhs

Please visit website **https://bdltenders.abcprocure.com, select online tenders on dashboard** for further details. Bids should be submitted online only. **"corrigendum if any shall be issued through our e-portal only and not in Newspapers"**
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252613 006287	Procurement of Pigment Dyes (Violet & Blue) for Paper Machine # 1, 2 & 3	26.12.2025
252613 006323	Procurement of Personal Computers Core i3 Processor	29.12.2025
252613 006453	Procurement of Shrinkable Synthetic Filter Cloth-CB BSW	19.12.2025

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DIPR/6588/Tender/2025 *TNPL - Maker of bagasse based eco-friendly Paper*

JERUSALEM

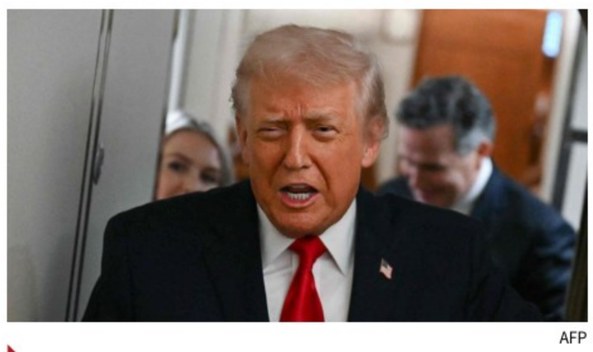
Hamas proposes weapons freeze; Israel says group 'will be disarmed'

REUTERS

Israel said on Thursday Hamas "will be disarmed" as part of the U.S.-led peace plan for Gaza, after a top leader from the Palestinian Islamist movement suggested a weapons freeze. Top Hamas leader Khaled Meshaal said that the militant group is open to a weapons "freeze", but rejects the demand for total disarmament. AFP

WASHINGTON

U.S. has seized 'very large' tanker near Venezuela, says Trump



AFP

The United States has seized a large oil tanker off the coast of Venezuela, President Donald Trump said on Wednesday, which Caracas deemed a 'blatant theft'. U.S. Attorney General Pam Bondi said the tanker was part of an "illicit oil shipping network" used to carry sanctioned oil from Venezuela and Iran. AFP

COLOMBO

UN seeks emergency funding to support cyclone-hit Sri Lanka

REUTERS

The United Nations called upon international donors on Thursday to help provide crucial assistance to Sri Lanka, grappling with the aftermath of Cyclone Ditwah. The UN's top envoy to the country, Marc-Andre Franche, announced plans for a $35.3-million fund, which he said was needed to cater to the basic needs of people. AFP

MRAUK-U

Junta's air strike on hospital in Myanmar kills 31 and injures 68

AP

A Myanmar military air strike killed 31 people and wounded 68 at a hospital in Mrauk-U in western Rakhine state, aid workers said on Thursday, as the junta wages a withering offensive ahead of elections. The military has set polls starting December 28 but rebels have pledged to block it from territory they control. AFP

Bangladesh to hold general election, July Charter referendum on Feb. 12

The election, first since Hasina's ouster, and referendum will uphold the will of the people, and further consolidate the foundation of a new Bangladesh, says Chief Adviser Yunus; President Shahabuddin says he will resign after the vote

Kallol Bhattacherjee
NEW DELHI

Strict watch: Bangladesh police personnel stand guard outside the Election Commission's office in Dhaka on Thursday. AFP

Bangladesh will hold its 13th national election on February 12, 2026, A.M.M. Nasir Uddin, the Chief Election Commissioner, announced on Thursday.

Announcing the poll schedule, which will be the country's second election in 26 months, Mr. Nasir Uddin also declared that a referendum on the July Charter – a set of principles aimed at amending the Constitution of Bangladesh – will be held on the same day. The announcement of the election schedule concludes the process that began when Mohammed Yunus, on the first anniversary of the fall of Sheikh Hasina's government on August 5, 2025, stated that Bangladesh would hold an election in first half of February 2026.

However, the future of Bangladesh's political trajectory will also be shaped by the upcoming referendum on the July Charter, that was adopted last October after being signed by the National Consensus Commission and at least 25 political parties.

The July Charter aims to incorporate several changes to the 1972 Constitution.

"With the announcement of this schedule, Bangladesh's democratic journey has crossed a significant milestone. Following the historic popular uprising, the country is moving forward on a new path – this election and referendum will reinforce that trajectory, uphold the will of the people, and further consolidate the foundation of a new Bangladesh," Mr. Yunus said on Thursday.

Meanwhile, President Mohammed Shahabuddin has said that he plans to step down after the February national election, stating that the Yunus administration has "sidelined and humiliated" him.

U.S. clears $686 million F-16 support deal for Pak.

Saurabh Trivedi
NEW DELHI

The United States has approved a major arms deal worth $686 million to provide advanced technology upgrades and sustainment support for Pakistan's F-16 fighter fleet, while stressing that the move will not alter the regional military balance.

In a statement, the U.S. Embassy said, "The proposed sustainment deal does not add to Pakistan's capabilities or change the regional military balance. India is a Major Defence Partner and the U.S. Strategic Partnership is grounded in our shared commitment to the advancement of a free and open Indo-Pacific region, the rule of law, and the promotion of human freedom and dignity."

Pakistan Air Force Sherdils squad's F-16 fighter jet. REUTERS

Sources confirmed that the Congressional Notification for the package has been sent, signalling the start of the approval process.

The deal is not final yet but Congress has been notified of the proposed deal.

According to details of the proposal published in Pakistani media, the Defense Security Cooperation Agency (DSCA) transmitted the proposal to Congress earlier this week. Of the total package value, $649 million is earmarked for avionics enhancements, cryptographic modules, mission-planning tools, spare parts, simulators, training, and contractor logistics support.

No new addition

The proposed sustainment program aims to ensure the continued safe operation of Pakistan's existing F-16 fleet rather than adding new capabilities or platforms.

U.S. launches Trump Gold Card

Press Trust of India
NEW YORK/WASHINGTON

U.S. President Donald Trump announced the launch of a million-dollar "Gold Card" offering a pathway for immigrants to U.S. citizenship, saying that it is a "shame" that students from India and China have to go back to home countries.

The Trump Gold Card announced on Wednesday is a visa based upon an individual's ability to provide a substantial benefit to the United States. "It is a gift of getting somebody great coming into our country, because we think these will be some tremendous people that wouldn't be allowed to stay," Mr. Trump said during a roundtable in the White House.

Meanwhile, giving details of the Gold Card, Commerce Secretary Howard Lutnick said it will cost one million dollars for an individual and two million dollars for a corporation and will involve "full" and "best" vetting to "make sure these people absolutely qualify to be in America".

Pak. military court jails ex-spy chief to 14 years

Associated Press
ISLAMABAD

A military court on Thursday sentenced retired Lt. Gen. Faiz Hameed, a former spy chief of Pakistan, to 14 years in prison, more than a year after court-martial proceedings began against him.

"The accused was tried on four charges related to engaging in political activities, violation of the Official Secrets Act detrimental to the safety and interest of the state, misuse of authority and government resources, and causing wrongful loss" to individuals, the military said.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA-DEPARTMENT OF SPACE
CONSTRUCTION & MAINTENANCE GROUP, SDSC –SHAR
SRIHARIKOTA-524124

Brief E-TENDER NOTICE

No:SHAR:CMGCIVIL:MAINT:E-PT-13/25-26 Dt: 11.12.2025

On behalf of President of India, Item Rate tenders are invited through e-tendering for following works;

Name of Work	Tender No	Estimate Cost
Providing BT topping to approach road, Admin Complex, Keepakam	T/C-25-056	₹ 18.14 Lakhs

Tender documents can be downloaded up to **18.12.2025**, **14:30** hrs. For eligibility criteria and other details, interested tenderers may please refer to the detailed bilingual (Hindi-English) Notice Inviting Tenders (NIT) on the website **https://www.isro.gov.in/Tenders.html** and tender free view at **https://www.tenderwizard.com/isro**

Sd/- GROUP HEAD, CMG/ SDSC SHAR

Europe's dilemma: how to finance Ukraine

NEWS ANALYSIS

Stanly Johny

On October 23, 2025, European Union leaders pledged to finance Ukraine for the next two years. But that immediately raised a pressing question: where would the money come from? EU leaders will meet in Brussels on December 18, where they are expected to take a final decision.

Most EU governments are already grappling with high public debt. Raising more funds from financial markets would be both economically burdensome and politically unpopular.

Since Russia invaded Ukraine in February 2022, EU governments have spent roughly $230 billion on assistance. Last year, the bloc raised $54 billion for Ukraine using its budget as collateral. But the loan appeared as additional debt on the EU's books. Any new loan would add to the EU's collective debt burden, worsening the bloc's borrowing position. Moreover, new market borrowing requires unanimous approval from all 27 member states. Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orban has already ruled it out.

Russian assets

Individual European countries, meanwhile, are showing signs of hesitation. While Germany, Europe's largest economy, and Britain and France have pledged to raise their military assistance for Ukraine in 2026, Italy has scaled back its contribution. Spain, which provided $1.2 billion to Ukraine in 2025, has made no commitment for the year ahead.

With limited options,

Volodymyr Zelenskyy

Europe has turned to the $244 billion in frozen Russian assets held in the continent. The proposal is to use these assets to fund a $104 billion loan to Ukraine that would be disbursed in the next two years. For the scheme to work, the Russian assets must be immobilised indefinitely, rather than the current temporary freeze.

Once the war ends, it would be up to Ukraine, which is seeking reparations from Russia, for repaying the loan. Ukraine has welcomed the proposal, while Russian leader Vladimir Putin has warned against the "EU theft".

Two problems

But there are two major problems. First, almost all of the frozen Russian assets are held in Euroclear, the central securities depository in Belgium. Brussels has opposed the EU's plan, citing legal and financial risks. Belgium fears it would get embroiled in legal troubles if Russia retaliates or if sanctions are lifted. It demands guarantees that other EU members share any potential costs.

Second, the Trump administration of the U.S. also opposes the EU approach. According to Donald Trump's 28-point peace plan for Ukraine, the frozen Russian assets should go into a joint investment fund for Ukraine's reconstruction, once a deal is clinched.

Europe, sidelined from the peace process by the U.S., believes the Trump plan favours Russia. In marathon meetings held in Geneva and London in recent weeks, European leaders reiterated their commitment to support Ukraine. But Kyiv is running out of money, and Europe is struggling to raise more. That leaves Europe with the Russian assets.

If Europe immobilises the assets indefinitely and uses them to fund Ukraine, it risks enhancing tensions with Russia and deepening rifts with Washington. Such a move would also raise questions about the safety of parking reserves in the euro. But if it doesn't do that, Ukraine, which is already losing ground on the battlefield, would be in deep peril. There are no good options for the EU's leaders.

THE HINDU GROUP

THE HINDU
REWIND 2025
TRIVIA QUIZ

DAY 07

1. For the first time since India's cheetah reintroduction project began, an India-born cheetah gave birth to five cubs in 2025. At which national park did this occur?
2. Which Indian state was officially declared 'free from extreme poverty' in November 2025?
3. Which Indian actor recently revealed his first look as Indian inventor, engineer, and industrial pioneer G.D. Naidu in the upcoming biopic titled G.D.N.?

*T&C apply.

Scan QR code or visit
bit.ly/Rewind2024TriviaQuiz
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Answer to yesterday's quiz:
1. Ilaiyaraaja
2. Kangeyan
3. AIIMS Delhi

Yesterday's Winners:
1. Kaniyan.P, Chennai | 2. Loveen Motwani, Pune | 3. Rajesh.K, New Delhi

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OWNING UP

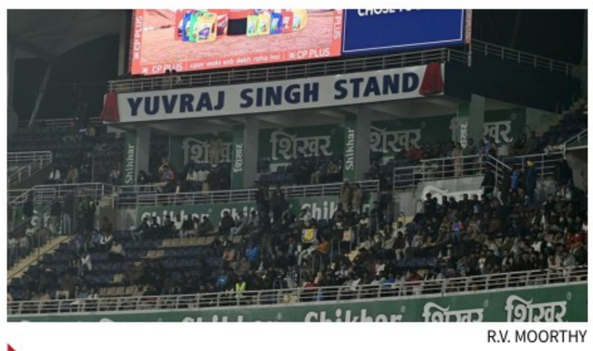
'Abhishek can't do it always, I should have batted deeper'

R.V. MOORTHY

We should've gone to a second plan if the first didn't work. With the bat, myself and Shubman Gill could've given a good start. Abhishek (Sharma) can't always do it. I should've batted deeper, we learn and try to do better. Axar Patel at three, we've seen him bat and wanted him to do the same — India captain Suryakumar Yadav.

BIG HONOUR

Yuvraj, Harmanpreet get stands at New Chandigarh Stadium



R.V. MOORTHY

World Cup winners Yuvraj Singh and Harmanpreet Kaur had stands named after them at the New Chandigarh Stadium. Yuvraj, player of the tournament in the 2011 ODI World Cup, and Harmanpreet, who recently led India to its first-ever Women's World Cup trophy, were surrounded by friends and family on the occasion.

READY TO ROLL

Tickets for next year's ICC T20 World Cup go on sale

SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Sale of tickets for the 2026 ICC T20 World Cup began on Thursday. The competition is being co-hosted by India and Sri Lanka from February 7. Defending champion India takes on the USA in one of the three matches on the opening day. ICC CEO Sanjog Gupta said it wants to make the tournament "the most accessible event ever."

LEGENSDPEAK

Whatever is good for cricket, BCCI should do: Kapil on split coaching

FILE PHOTO: SHASHI SHEKHAR KASHYAP

Former India captain Kapil Dev steered clear of endorsing the idea of split coaches after the team's recent 0-2 Test series loss to South Africa at home. "I don't know. You have to really work something like that in your mind and say what should happen. Whatever is good for cricket, I think they (BCCI) should do it," said Kapil.

De Kock does the star turn as Proteas draw level

The opener smashes 90 off just 46 balls; the Indian bowlers barring Varun go for plenty; extras add to the home team's woes; Tilak wages a lone battle for the Men in Blue in a big chase

Pure class: De Kock once again showed why he is one of the most feared openers in white-ball cricket. R.V. MOORTHY

SA IN INDIA

Sankar Narayanan E.H.
NEW CHANDIGARH

It's a delight to watch Quinton de Kock bat. The stylish opener unfurled a lot of his signature shots at the Maharaja Yadavindra Singh Stadium on Thursday. His 46-ball 90 (5x4, 7x6) proved invaluable as South Africa beat India by 51 runs in the second T20I and drew level the five-match series 1-1.

Asked to bat first, the Proteas took full toll of a mediocre bowling show from India to amass 213 for four in 20 overs.

De Kock contributed the lion's share of the runs, once again showing why he is one of the most feared openers in white-ball cricket.

While Reeza Hendricks (8, 10b, 1x6) and No. 3 Aiden Markram (29, 26b, 1x4, 2x6) found it difficult to get going early, de Kock had no such qualms, peppering the deep square-leg boundary with ease and panache.

Yuvraj Singh, whose stand was unveiled along with Harmanpreet Kaur here, would have been taken down the memory lane watching some of the stylish leg-side sixes de Kock unleashed.

Ominous signs

Things looked ominous for India at the halfway stage of the South African innings (90 for one).

The opener's most authoritative stroke of the evening, a six over Arshdeep Singh's head probably rattled the left-arm pacer. Arshdeep lost his bearings and bowled seven wides in the 13-ball 11th over, which went for 18 runs.

Tilak. R.V. MOORTHY

The TV cameras also showed India head coach Gautam Gambhir losing his cool over Arshdeep's continued lack of control.

Markram got into the act soon, hitting back-to-back sixes off Varun Chakaravarthy down the ground. His third attempt, off the last ball of the over, wasn't successful as Varun (4-0-29-2) had the Proteas skipper mishit one straight to deep midwicket.

De Kock's blitzkrieg finally came to an end when he ran himself out after under-edging one and wicket-keeper Jitesh Sharma quickly dislodged the bails once his opposite number took a couple of steps, not knowing where the ball had gone.

After a couple of quiet overs, Donovan Ferreira (30 n.o., 16b, 1x4, 3x6) and David Miller (20 n.o., 12b, 2x4, 1x6) went after Jasprit Bumrah (4-0-45-0) and Arshdeep (4-0-54-0) as the visitors slammed 49 runs off the last three overs, essentially batting India out of the match.

India conceded as many as 22 extras, including 16 wides, which added to South Africa's momentum.

The result was a foregone conclusion once the host lost Shubman Gill, Abhishek Sharma and Suryakumar Yadav within four overs.

India may be getting concerned with the batting form of the skipper Suryakumar and his deputy Gill ahead of the 2026 T20 World Cup.

Axar Patel's promotion to No. 3 did not bear fruit as the Indian chase went nowhere. With 133 needed off the last 10 overs (six wickets in hand), not many would have given India a chance.

They were proven right. Only Tilak Varma (62, 34b, 2x4, 5x6) gave a fight as India got bowled out for 162 in 19.1 overs.

The think-tank will have a lot to ponder over as the bandwagon heads further north to Dharamshala.

SCOREBOARD

SOUTH AFRICA
Quinton de Kock run out 90 (*46b, 5x4, 7x6*), Reeza Hendricks b Varun 8 (*10b, 1x6*), Aiden Markram c Axar b Varun 29 (*26b, 1x4, 2x6*), Dewald Brevis c Tilak b Axar 14 (*10b, 1x4, 1x6*), Donovan Ferreira (not out) 30 (*16b, 1x4, 3x6*), David Miller (not out) 20 (*12b, 2x4, 1x6*); Extras (b-1, lb-5, w-16): 22; Total (for four wkts. in 20 overs): 213.

FALL OF WICKETS
1-38 (Hendricks, 4.1 overs), 2-121 (Markram, 11.6), 3-156 (de Kock, 15.1), 4-160 (Brevis, 16.1).

INDIA BOWLING
Arshdeep 4-0-54-0, Bumrah 4-0-45-0, Varun 4-0-29-2, Axar 3-0-27-1, Hardik 3-0-34-0, Dube 2-0-18-0.

INDIA
Abhishek Sharma c de Kock b Jansen 17 (*8b, 2x6*), Shubman Gill c Hendricks b Ngidi 0 (*1b*), Axar Patel c Hendricks b Baartman 21 (*21b, 1x4, 1x6*), Suryakumar Yadav c de Kock b Jansen 5 (*4b, 1x4*), Tilak Varma c Markram b Ngidi 62 (*34b, 2x4, 5x6*), Hardik Pandya c Brevis b Sipamla 20 (*23b, 1x6*), Jitesh Sharma c Baartman b Sipamla 27 (*17b, 2x4, 2x6*), Shivam Dube b Baartman 1 (*2b*), Arshdeep Singh c Miller b Baartman 4 (*3b, 1x4*), Varun Chakaravarthy c Markram b Baartman 0 (*2b*), Jasprit Bumrah not out 0 (*0b*); Extras (b-3, lb-1, w-1): 5; Total (in 19.1 overs): 162.

FALL OF WICKETS
1-9 (Gill, 0.5), 2-19 (Abhishek, 1.6), 3-32 (Suryakumar, 3.5), 4-67 (Axar, 7.3), 5-118 (Hardik, 14.2), 6-157 (Jitesh, 17.5), 7-158 (Dube, 18.1), 8-162 (Arshdeep, 18.4), 9-162 (Varun, 18.6).

SOUTH AFRICA BOWLING
Ngidi 3.1-0-26-2, Jansen 4-0-25-2, Sipamla 4-0-46-2, Ferreira 1-0-14-0, Baartman 4-0-24-4, Linde 3-0-23-0.

Toss: India; **PoM:** De Kock.
South Africa won by 51 runs to level five-match series 1-1.
Third T20I: December 14, Dharmashala, 7 p.m.

Time away from game brought back my hunger: de Kock

Sankar Narayanan E.H.
NEW CHANDIGARH

"You never know what you have until you've lost it".

This one quote from Quinton de Kock effectively conveys why the South African opener decided to return to international cricket.

During the post-match press conference after the Proteas' 51-run win over India, de Kock shed light on his retirement U-turn.

"Prior to my retirement, I was losing my hunger to win games, specifically for the Proteas... and that time away just brought back my hunger," he said at the Maharaja Yadavindra Singh Stadium on Thursday.

"I was quite exhausted from international cricket. So, my break was much needed. Now, when I came back, I've got a lot of energy that I can put back towards the team."

"I want to play for as long as I can now, where I don't think I could have had that mindset if I carried on playing. I would have probably finished my career earlier... but now, I can prolong it. I feel fitter than ever and I'm not mentally exhausted."

The 32-year-old added that playing T20 leagues around the world helped his cause. "I did not change much while I was away. I know world cricket is changing, at least in the T20 game. However, I thought I could still keep up with the way I play."

Baartman, right, claimed four wickets. R.V. MOORTHY

> I feel fitter than ever and I'm not mentally exhausted

When asked whether he would consider making a return to Test cricket, an honest and short reply ensued.

"[You are] not the only one asking. As of now, no. It's a straight no," de Kock said.

The Proteas white-ball opener is here to stay.

India proves too good for Brazil, meets South Africa in last eight

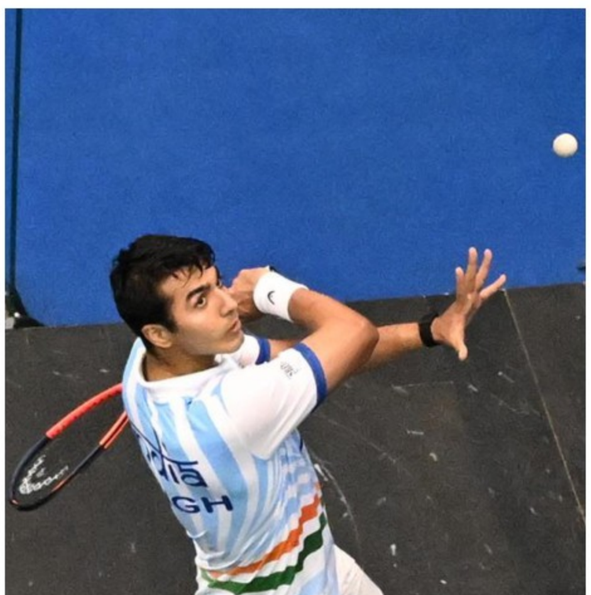
SQUASH

K. Keerthivasan
CHENNAI

Already assured of a place in the last-eight, India topped Pool-B with eight points after a comfortable 4-0 win over debutant Brazil in its final league match of the Squash World Cup at the Express Avenue Mall here on Thursday.

National champion Velavan Senthilkumar, rising star Anahat Singh, and India No.1 Abhay Singh registered straight-game victories. The fourth rubber, involving Joshna Chinappa and Bruna Marchesi Petrillo, was awarded to India after the Brazilian failed to reach Chennai due to visa issues.

India will now face South Africa, which delivered one of the most spirited performances of the day against top seed Hong Kong, in the quarterfinals. Although the tie ended 2-2, the spotlight firmly rested on the South Africans.



Picture of concentration: Abhay wrapped up the tie for the home side. B. JOTHI RAMALINGAM

The tone was set by Damian Groenwald, ranked 97 places below Hong Kong's Henry Leung (54), as he produced a brilliant, career-defining performance to claim the opening match.

Hong Kong drew level through reigning Asian champion Ho Tze-Lok, who overcame Hayley Ward 7-2, 7-4, 6-7, 7-1.

With Hong Kong's spearhead and reigning Asian champion Lau Tsz Kwan stepping onto court to face Dewald van Niekerk, the expectation was for a routine win. But the 69th-ranked South African stunned Kwan (World rank 42) in a gripping five-game contest. However, Hong Kong ensured there weren't any more upsets as Ka Yi Lee defeated Teagan Russell in straight games, 7-1, 7-2, 7-1 and levelled the tie.

The results: Pool-A: Hong Kong drew with South Africa 2-2 (Henry Leung lost to Damian Groenwald 1-7, 5-7, 2-7; Ho Tomato Tsz-Lok bt Hayley Ward 7-2, 7-4, 6-7, 7-1; Tsz Kwan Lau lost to Dewald van Niekerk 3-7, 7-3, 6-7, 7-3, 6-7; Ka Yi Lee bt Teagan Russell 7-1, 7-2, 7-1).
Pool-B: India bt Brazil 4-0 (Velavan Senthilkumar bt Pedro Mometto 7-5, 7-2, 7-2; Anahat Singh bt Laura Souza Bezerra Da Silva 7-4, 7-0, 7-2; Abhay Singh bt Diego Gobbi 7-3, 7-1, 7-1; Joshna Chinappa w/o Bruna Marchesi Petrillo).

Pool-C: Malaysia bt Australia 3-1 (Mohammad Syafiq Kamal bt Dylan Molinaro 7-4, 6-7, 7-6, 7-4; Aira Azman bt Jessica Tumbuli 7-2, 7-4, 7-3; Ameeshenraj Chandran lost to Joseph White 5-7, 5-7, 7-3, 4-7; Aifa Azman bt Madison Lyon 7-0, 7-0, 7-0).

The man of the moment in world chess is my teammate at GCL: Anand

P. K. Ajith Kumar

Viswanathan Anand doesn't play much chess these days. That shouldn't be surprising: the five-time World champion turned 56 on Thursday.

But he makes it a point to play the Global Chess League every year. He once again is representing Ganges Grandmasters, in the third season, He is excited to be playing in the third edition, which kicks off in Mumbai on December 14.

"The fact that it is happening in Mumbai makes it special," Anand told *The Hindu* over the phone. "And I think the league is improving year after year. It is going to be a great feeling to have the league at home for the first time."

He believes the league could scale up this season in Mumbai.

"The league is presenting chess in a new way, focussing on the visual effect, and the team dynamics, and all that," he said. "I think they will borrow a lot of ideas from other successful Indian leagues, like the IPL. Mumbai is a great venue for the event, and brings it very close to all the Indian fans."

Maestro's pick: Anand has high praise for Keymer. GCL

> I think the league is improving year after year. It is going to be a great feeling to have the league at home for the first time

Anand is glad that his team has two of the world's best young players, Javokhir Sindarov and Vincent Keymer; both are in top form, too. Keymer is now the World No. 4 while Sindarov was the surprise winner at the recent Chess World Cup in Goa.

"Vincent has been the hot player this year, but Javokhir has been spectacular over the last couple of months," he said. "That clearly will help our team. I have been noticing that Javokhir's strength has been improving a lot, but there is always a moment when it accelerates, and right now it feels he is the man of the moment."

Anand is also all praise for the man of the moment in Indian chess, R. Praggnanandhaa, who clinched the last Candidates slot at the start of the week by winning the FIDE Circuit. "The beauty of winning in the circuit is that you don't have to explain to people," he said. "Normally, you say that someone had one good result, and he qualified, but Pragg won the long qualifying cycle by winning several elite tournaments."

He will be the only Indian in Cyprus, where the Candidates will be played in March-April next year. "You must keep in mind that of the three Indians last time, one of them is now world champion," he pointed out.

"And then if you think we swapped three women - who will play in Cyprus - and two men for last year's two women and three men, I will take that."

INBRIEF

Bembem and Ashalata could make Asian Cup All-Time XI

Indian football legends Bembem Devi and Ashalata Devi have been nominated for the AFC Women's Asian Cup All-Time Dream XI football team in recognition of their stellar performances in the continental showpiece. Former captain Bembem, the only Indian woman footballer to have been conferred the Padma Shri, is one of the 12 midfielders nominated for the Dream XI team. "During an international career spanning over two decades, Bembem Devi was the true leader of a generation of Indian women's footballers," the Asian Football Confederation (AFC) said.

"Ashalata Devi is one of the Indian women's national team's most accomplished defenders. A commanding centre-back, she made her AFC Women's Asian Cup debut in 2022. In 2019, she was named the AIFF Women's Player of the Year in recognition of her consistency and leadership," the AFC said.

Holder Nandhidhaa stays ahead of the pack

Defending champion P.V. Nandhidhaa maintained her sole lead after beating Arshiya Das in the ninth round of the National women's chess championship at Durgapur on Thursday.

The results (ninth round): P.V. Nandhidhaa 8.5 bt Arshiya Das 6.5; Shubhi Gupta 8 bt G. Shivasmshika 6.5; Mary Ann Gomes 7.5 bt Ganta Kheerthi 6; Srishti Pandey 7 bt Arpita Mukherjee 6; V. Varshini 6.5 drew with Sakshi Chitlange 6; Ananya Raman 5.5 lost to Velpula Sarayu 6.5; Rebecca Jesumarian 6 drew with Srija Seshadri 5.5; Kalyani Sirin 6.5 bt Saparya Ghosh 5.5; Sneha Halder 5.5 lost to V.C. Nivedita 6.5; Nisha Mohota 6.5 bt Maitreyi Mondal 5.5.

LIVE TELECAST

SMAT: JioHotstar, 9, 11.30 a.m. 1.30 & 4.30 p.m.

Men's U-19 Asia Cup: India vs UAE, Sony Sports Ten 1 & LIV, 10.30 a.m.; Pakistan vs Malaysia, Sony Sports Ten 2 & LIV, 10.30 a.m.

Tennis Premier League: Sony Sports Ten 5 & LIV, 4.30 p.m. onwards

Bundesliga: Sony Sports Ten 2 & LIV, 1 a.m. (Saturday)

Serie A: DAZN, 1.15 a.m. (Saturday)

LaLiga: FanCode, 1.30 a.m. (Saturday)

New Zealand vs West Indies: 2nd Test, day 4, Sony Sports Ten 5 & LIV, 3.30 a.m. (Saturday)

Stage set for Super League as teams brace for challenge sans star players

Mumbai will be without Suryakumar, Dube and Mhatre; Punjab's Abhishek and Arshdeep also won't be seen in action due to national commitments

Talisman: Rahane will be a key player for Mumbai. SANDEEP SAXENA

SMAT

Shayan Acharya
PUNE

Cold mornings, pleasant afternoons and chilly evenings - that's how the Pune weather has been recently. With the temperature expected to dip further over the next couple of days, the dew factor could play a major role in the evening fixtures of the Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy Super League stage, beginning from Friday.

While that certainly is a concern for all the eight teams, they have plenty to ponder. Clarity of roles will be the key as most sides will be missing their star players, who are busy with international commitments.

Today's matches
Madhya Pradesh vs Andhra (9 a.m., DY Patil Academy), Rajasthan vs Haryana (11 a.m., MCA Stadium), Punjab vs Jharkhand (1.30 p.m., DY Patil Academy), Mumbai vs Hyderabad (4.30 p.m., MCA Stadium).

While Mumbai will be without Suryakumar Yadav, Shivam Dube and U-19 star Ayush Mhatre, Punjab, too, will miss its top performers Abhishek Sharma and Arshdeep Singh.

It's a similar story for Hyderabad. With its star batter Tilak Varma busy with the India vs South Africa T20I series, it will be a challenge for the young side to step up and deliver in the crucial phase of the competition. However, the team would heave a sigh of relief as seasoned fast bowler Mohammed Siraj is set to be available for the tournament. Siraj missed the training sessions, but is expected to join the team ahead of the opening fixture.

As a thick layer of fog engulfed the MCA Stadium on Thursday, the Mumbai batters - Ajinkya Rahane and Siddhesh Lad - spent a long time in the nets, while Yashasvi Jaiswal skipped the optional training session.

With matches also scheduled at the DY Patil Academy ground in Ambi, which hasn't hosted too many games, assessing the conditions will be the key.

With batting-friendly surfaces likely to be on offer, it will be an opportunity for young guns like Musheer Khan and Mukul Choudhary, who replaced an injured Kartik Sharma for Rajasthan, to prove their mettle.

Favourite India begins campaign against the UAE

Press Trust of India
DUBAI

India's Asia Cup under-19 campaign will be spearheaded by Gen Z batting sensations Vaibhav Suryavanshi and Ayush Mhatre, but equal focus would be on whether the BCCI allows the youngsters to exchange handshakes with their Pakistani counterparts.

While the Indian colts, under the able leadership of Mhatre, start their campaign against the UAE on Friday, it is the match against Pakistan on Sunday that will certainly gain the most traction in the junior continental championship seen as a dress rehearsal for the World Cup early next year.

India and Pakistan are almost sure to qualify for the semifinals as the top two teams from Group-A.

India squad: Ayush Mhatre (Capt.), Vaibhav Sooryavanshi, Vihaan Malhotra (Vice-capt,), Vedant Trivedi, Abhigyan Kundu (wk), Harvansh Singh (wk), Yuvraj Gohil, Kanishk Chouhan, Khilan Patel, Naman Pushpak, D. Deepesh, Henil Patel, Kishan Kumar Singh, Udhav Mohan, Aaron George.

I enjoy captaincy, it doesn't pressure me, says Mhatre ahead of under-19 Asia Cup

Dhruva Prasad
LUCKNOW

Since featuring in last year's u-19 Asia Cup, Ayush Mhatre has earned an Indian Premier League (IPL) contract, captained the Indian junior team on successful tours to England and Australia, and become a mainstay of the Mumbai senior team across formats.

As if so much early-career success wasn't too much to handle already, the 18-year-old has also been appointed India captain for the u-19 Asia Cup, starting on Friday in Dubai.

"I enjoy captaincy, so it doesn't pressure me," he told reporters at the Ekana Cricket Stadium here on the sidelines of the ongoing Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy (SMAT), where Mhatre slammed 325 runs in six innings, including two centuries and a fifty.

Mhatre. SANDEEP SAXENA

It is not only the volume of Mhatre's run-scoring that is staggering, but also his strike rate of 166.66 in the SMAT.

"I trust my process and play to the merit of the ball. I just see and hit the ball," Mhatre explained laconically.

"He [Dhoni] told me to be calm on the ground and not to make decisions in an aggressive mode," Mhatre said when asked about the learnings from his maiden IPL stint this year with Chennai Super Kings, which has retained the Mumbai batter.

Mhatre's pull shots are a throwback to those essayed by Rohit, one of the best in the business.

"Rohit Sharma is my idol, so I follow him. I keep speaking to him. I took instructions from him about how he practises the pull shot and the drills involved," Mhatre revealed.

With a promising future ahead of him, Mhatre is grateful for the past. "My main support has been the Mumbai Cricket Association. They gave me an opportunity at such a young age. If it weren't for my father and nana-ji [maternal grandfather], I wouldn't be here," he said.

Gritty: Hay's fifty gave the hosts a decisive lead. AFP

Hay and bowlers help New Zealand nudge ahead

Agence France Presse
WELLINGTON

Mitchell Hay scored an aggressive half-century on his Test debut to help New Zealand to a 41-run lead over the West Indies at the close of play on day two of the second Test here on Thursday.

The Black Caps were 278 all out with about an hour to play in the final session, after the West Indies scored 205 at the Basin Reserve.

At stumps the visitors were 32 for two in their second innings, with Brandon King (15) and Kavem Hodge (3) at the crease.

Michael Rae and Jacob Duffy took a wicket each as New Zealand got through 10 overs in fading light.

The scores: West Indies 205 & 32/2 in 10 overs vs New Zealand 278 in 74.4 overs (Hay 61, Conway 60, Philip 3/70).

Powell hopes to cement spot at KKR

IPL

Vivek Krishnan
NEW DELHI

In Kolkata Knight Riders' list of retained players for IPL 2026, there is a big-hitting West Indian all-rounder from Jamaica. But contrary to expectations before the list was announced on November 15, it isn't Andre Russell, who has subsequently chosen to end his playing career in the IPL and take up a coaching role with the franchise. Instead, the three-time IPL champion has retained Rovman Powell.

Royman Powell.
FILE PHOTO: B. JOTHI RAMALINGAM

While Powell's body of work is nowhere near as impressive as Russell's, he is in a similar mould: the 32-year-old is also a fearsome striker of the ball in the death overs, and can bowl medium pace. Given the Russell-sized hole in KKR's squad, the think-tank will certainly be keen on signing a marquee name at Tuesday's mini-auction. Having featured in just two games last season, Powell is hoping for more opportunities too.

"To be retained by such a big franchise, it's a confidence-booster. It's a step in the right direction for me," Powell told the *The Hindu* on Thursday. "Hopefully, I can cement a spot for myself. With Russell not there, definitely there's an opportunity for me to get more game time. So hopefully, I'll get that."

Other than the IPL, Powell keeps himself busy by participating in many T20 leagues. Currently, he is an integral part of Dubai Capitals in the IL T20 in the United Arab Emirates. As lucrative as these leagues are for the players, they seem to have corroded the overall health of cricket in the Caribbean. What is Powell's take?

"There is love for the sport, but the sport is also now a business. You use it as a viable means to take care of your family," Powell stated.

"T20 provides that opportunity, not just for us as Caribbean cricketers but for a lot of the players. It allows you to take your family out of poverty and afford a better life. West Indies will never be able to compete with these T20 leagues".

Germany coach highlights shared leadership as a cornerstone of continued success in junior WC

HOCKEY

K. Keerthivasan
CHENNAI

Playing its maiden final, Spain pushed seven-time champion Germany to the limit in the FIH junior men's hockey World Cup here on Wednesday, before falling in the shootout to the reigning European champion.

Germany head coach Mirko Stenzel lauded Spain's intensity and organisation.

"I think Spain played a very good match and probably had their heads up.

That winning feeling: German players set off after triumphing over Spain on penalties. R. RAGU

We had trouble keeping them away from our ball and away from our goal. At times it was really hard to stay in possession for long periods, which is normally our strength. Spain did that better than we did," he admitted.

Stenzel also praised his players – and particularly No. 1 goalkeeper Jasper Ditzer – for staying calm under pressure and turning the match around in the shootout.

"We relied on our players, the five shooters, and on goalkeeper Jasper. It's an amazing feeling," he said.

He highlighted shared leadership as a cornerstone of Germany's continued success.

"I think part of it is the philosophy of shared leadership and shared responsibility within the team. There is a strong bond between the staff and players.

"Not that other teams don't have it, but from the under-16 level onwards, we try to give players more responsibility and make the coaches less important," he explained.

Stenzel added that Germany's mindset – doing everything with passion and never taking anything for granted – was key to the team's ability to rise to big moments.

"We do everything with confidence, with passion, and without taking anything for granted.

"I think that sometimes sets us apart – not always – but in a World Cup final, I'm just really happy that we had the luckier end."

Hyderabad to host women's WC Qualifier

Sports Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Indian women's hockey team will have home advantage when it takes one final shot at qualifying for the 2026 World Cup next year even as the team continues to be devoid of a chief coach. The FIH on Thursday announced the dates and venues for the World Cup Qualifiers with India hosting one of the eight-team events in Hyderabad from March 8 to 14.

The other women's qualifier will be in Santiago (Chile), which will also host one of the men's events. The other men's event qualifier will be held in Ismailia (Egypt).

Besides India, the other teams in the fray include England, Scotland, Korea, Italy, Uruguay, Wales and Austria with India being the second-ranked team behind England.

The top three at each qualifier will qualify for the 2026 World Cup in Belgium and Netherlands along with the higher-ranked fourth-placed team across both events.

ISL clubs push for amendment to AIFF constitution

Neeladri Bhattacharjee
CHENNAI

All Indian Super League (ISL) clubs, except East Bengal, have replied to the All India Football Federation (AIFF) explaining that talks of hosting the league would be futile if constitutional constraints are not resolved at the earliest.

The letter, sent on Thursday, comes a day after AIFF's deputy secretary general, M. Satyanarayan, wrote to the clubs asking for a call to explore the possibility of jointly hosting the league.

The sections for which the clubs are seeking amendments are Articles 1.21, 1.54, and 63 of the AIFF constitution, as mentioned in their letter dated December 5.

Article 1.21 details the financial year between April 1 and March 31, but with the ISL not planned so far, a commercial partner will need to have the liberty of a contract different to the window suggested by the AIFF.

The other two articles pertain to the power of authorisation of ownership of the league and its entities, both of which belong entirely to the AIFF.

Two options

The clubs have given two options to the federation: the AIFF should either expressly support the removal of commercially restrictive clauses in the Constitution, or itself undertake these amendments at the forthcoming AGM on December 20.

Man City compounds Real Madrid's misery

Madueke double helps Arsenal maintain perfect record; Leverkusen and Newcastle share points; Bilbao holds defending champion PSG goalless

Drawing level: O'Reilly scores City's equaliser against Real. REUTERS

CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

Agence France-Presse
PARIS

Erling Haaland scored his 34th goal for club and country this season to give Manchester City a 2-1 win at Real Madrid on Wednesday as Arsenal maintained its perfect group stage record with a 3-0 victory at Club Brugge.

It was a second successive home defeat for Real following the reverse in La Liga against Celta Vigo at the weekend and heaped more pressure on coach Xabi Alonso.

For Haaland, though, this was a 21st goal in 21 City games this season and a 51st in 50 Champions League starts, while Nico O'Reilly scored his first goal in the competition.

Noni Madueke's double helped Arsenal win a sixth straight match this season and close in on the last 16.

The Premier League leader already has more points (18) than was needed last season to secure a top eight spot and direct qualification for the last 16, and it has two matches still to come.

Elsewhere, reigning champion Paris Saint-Germain was held to a 0-0 draw at Athletic Bilbao but stayed third, behind only Arsenal and Bayern Munich, with City fourth.

Weston McKennie and Jonathan David scored the goals as Juventus overcame Pafos 2-0, while Bayer Leverkusen and Newcastle shared a 2-2 draw, as did Borussia Dortmund and Bodo/Glimt.

Goals from Richard Rios and Leandro Barreiro gave Jose Mourinho's Benfica a 2-0 win over Antonio Conte's Napoli in a battle of the former Chelsea bosses.

Oscar Gloukh scored a brace as Ajax hit three late goals to claim a 4-2 win at Qarabag to finally open its account in the competition this season. Villarreal slumped to last position after a 3-2 home defeat to FC Copenhagen.

The results: Villarreal 2 (Comesana 47, Oluwaseyi 56) lost to Copenhagen 3 (Elyounoussi 2, Achouri 48, Cornelius 90); Qarabag 2 (Duran 10, Silva 47) lost to Ajax 4 (Dolberg 39, Gloukh 79, 90, Gaaei 83).

Borussia Dortmund 2 (Brandt 18, 51) drew with Bodo / Glimt (NOR) 2 (Aleesami 42, Hauge 75); Bayer Leverkusen 2 (Guimaraes 13-og, Grimaldi 88) drew with Newcastle 2 (Gordon 51-pen, Miley 74).

Benfica 2 (Rios 20, Barreiro 49) bt Napoli 0; Juventus 2 (McKennie 67, David 73) bt Pafos 0; Club Brugge 0 lost to Arsenal 3 (Madueke 25, 47, Martinelli 56).

Athletic Bilbao 0 drew with PSG 0; Real Madrid 1 (Rodrygo 28) lost to Manchester City 2 (O'Reilly 35, Haaland 43-pen).

SNAPSHOTS

Karnataka in command against Odisha

Karnataka moved to a strong position on the third day of its BCCI Cooch Behar Trophy (under-19) match against Odisha at Balangir.

The scores: Odisha 170 and 211/7 in 63 overs (Sourav Mishra 50, Sambit Beja 38, B.R. Rathan 4/46) vs. Karnataka 469/8 decl. in 126.4 overs (Anvay Dravid 82, Dhruv Krishnan 105, Manikanth Shivanand 227, Priyanshu Mohanty 4/87, Tufayl Ahmad 3/111).

Sethu meets Kickstart in IWL opener

The Indian Women's League 2025-26 will kick off on December 20 in Kolkata with Sethu taking on Kickstart in the opening match.

The league will be played in two phases, with the first one stretching from December 20 to January 9, 2026, during which the eight teams will play 28 matches. The second phase is set to be held from April 20 to May 10.

Star-studded field to be seen in action at National wrestling championships

Y.B. Sarangi
AHMEDABAD

As Ahmedabad gears up to host the 2030 Commonwealth Games, a star-studded field - including Olympics bronze medallist Aman Sehrawat, two-time Worlds medallist Antim Panghal, Asian champion Manisha Bhanwala, World under-23 champion Sujeet Kalkal and Olympian Nisha Dahiya - at the National wrestling championships, starting here on Friday, will contribute its share in building the image of the city as a sports hub.

After the Sports Ministry revoked the suspension on the Wrestling Federation of India (WFI) in March, the national federation is conducting the National championships with the participation of all its units, including Railways (which had denied permission to its wrestlers for earlier editions over the recognition issue).

All set: Aman will compete in a heavier category.
FILE PHOTO: RITU RAJ KONWAR

This current edition, being held at the Veer Savarkar Sports Complex, Naranpura, assumes significance as the wrestlers who have registered for the relaunch of the Pro Wrestling League (PWL), scheduled to start on January 15, will use the platform to sharpen their skills.

The event will also be a launch-pad for the wrestlers ahead of a busy 2026 calendar, including the World championships and the Asian Games.

The WFI's decision to revoke the suspension on Aman, who was suspended for being disqualified after jumping the weight limit in the World championships, has made him eligible to take part in the Nationals.

Promising Neha Sangwan, who also got a reprieve in similar circumstances, could not make it to the Nationals after losing to 62kg Asian champion Manisha (who dropped down to 57kg) in the Haryana state championships.

Both Aman and Antim will compete in heavier categories, in 61kg and 55kg instead of 57kg and 53kg respectively, to avoid the rigours of weight reduction.

"It's heartening to see the top wrestlers at the Nationals. It lifts the standard of the event," said Railways coach Kripa Shankar Patel.

PGTI's own professional league to get underway in Feb.

Uthra Ganesan
NEW DELHI

The friction in Indian golf is set to increase with the PGTI announcing the launch of 72 The League a franchise-based national professional league on Thursday.

Created in partnership with Game of Life Sports (GOLS), the league is scheduled to be held from February 21 to March 6 next year across three Delhi-NCR venues in its inaugural season – Qutab Golf Course (Delhi), Classic Golf & Country Club (Gurugram) and Jaypee Greens (Greater Noida). The announcement comes months after the launch of the rival Indian Golf Premier League featuring some of India's premier golfers.

While the IGPL is supposed to happen in January 2026 and have its auction by the end of this year, there is no update on the same. The auction for 72 The League is scheduled next month with a pool of ₹6crores and the franchises are yet to be finalised.

Both leagues are expected to feature six teams with 10 pro golfers each, but, while IGPL will have both men and women, 72 will only be for men to begin with.

The former has also been planned to be played both home-and-away across the country.

The format for both is also different – the IGPL will be a no-cut, three-day strokeplay event over four weeks while the 72 will be played in matchplay style.

PGTI president Kapil Dev while denying the league as a reaction to IGPL, also made it clear that the golfers will have to choose.

"We have not sanctioned or banned any golfer for participating in any competition. We have nothing against any golfer who decides to participate in any league, any chance to earn money is a good thing. But they cannot be part of two parallel organisations simultaneously," Kapil said.

The 72's league commissioner Amrit Mathur admitted the selection of franchises would be critical.

"We have learnt from the different leagues in the country and understand that each sport has its own unique dynamics and we need to respect that. The main objective is to get the right owners who understand this is not a get-rich quick money scheme but a long-term commitment," he said.

Government of Karnataka
EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, RURAL DEVELOPMENT PANCHAYAT RAJ ENGINEERING PROJECT DIVISION, KALABURAGI

No: EE/RDPRE/PD/KLB/KKRDB/TS/TND/2025-26/618 Date: 08.12.2025

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Through E-Procurement Two Cover System)

1) Name of Work & Indent number : **Improvements to Road From Wadi to Ingalagi Thanda Vai Ingalagi in Chittapur Taluka Kalaburagi District Under SCP/TSP 2024-25. KRRDA/ 2025-26/RD/WORK_INDENT246.** 2) Head of account : **2024-25** ನೇ ಸಾಲಿನ SCP TSP, 3) Amount put to tender: **Indent No.246, Rs.6,91,90,498.95.** 4) Class of Contractor :As mentioned in E-procurement, 5) Tender From Fee : As per Eprocurement Norms, 6) E.M.D. Fee : As per E-procurement, 7) Receipt of completed tender documents : **08.12.2025 to 23.12.2025 upto 16.00 Hours**, 8) Technical Bid opening date: **24.12.2025 after 16.00 hours.** 9) Financial Bid opening Date: **26.12.2025 after 16.00 Hours.** 10) For more details contact : Office of the Executive Engineer, RDPRE Project Division, Rajapur road, Kalaburagi **E-Mail : kn-gul-1@pmgsy.nic.in** 11) website address : **www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in**

Sd/- **Executive Engineer,**
DIPR/Kalaburagi/837/Deshpande Publicity/2025-26 RDPRE Project Division, Kalaburagi

SANJEEVINI-Karnataka State Rural Livelihood Promotion Society
Skill Development, Entrepreneurship and Livelihood Department
Office of the Mission Director, Sanjeevini-KSRLPS
4, 2nd Floor, MYSUGAR Building, J.C. Road, Near Town Hall,
Bengaluru-560002. E-mail: nrlmkarnataka@gmail.com

No.: KSRLPS/NFL/SVEP/16/2024-NONFL-KSRLPS-129844 **Date: 10-12-2025**

TENDER NOTIFICATION

Karnataka State Rural Livelihood Mission has invited Short-Term Request for Proposal (RFP) from eligible agencies registered with the Ministry of Rural Development for providing consulting services in the preparation of the Detailed Project Report (DPR) for 12 SVEP taluks in Karnataka under the SVEP Programme. The RFP was published in the **KPPP Portal** on **10.12.2025.** Interested bidders may submit their proposals by logging into **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**. The last date for submission of the RFP is 18.12.2025, on or before **5:00 PM.** Bidders are requested to refer the tender document for the schedule and further information. The Tender Reference Numbers are as follows.

Sl. No.	Name of the Tender	Tender Ref. No.
1	Preparation of the Detailed Project Report (DPR) in Jamkhandi Taluk of Bagalkote District.	KSRLPS/2025-26/ SE0038
2	Preparation of the Detailed Project Report (DPR) in Bylahongala Taluk of Belagavi District.	KSRLPS/2025-26/ SE0039
3	Preparation of the Detailed Project Report (DPR) in Yelandur Taluk of Chamarajnagar District.	KSRLPS/2025-26/ SE0040
4	Preparation of the Detailed Project Report (DPR) in Chikkamagaluru Taluk of Chikkamagaluru District.	KSRLPS/2025-26/ SE0041
5	Preparation of the Detailed Project Report (DPR) in Kadur Taluk of Chikkamagaluru District.	KSRLPS/2025-26/ SE0042
6	Preparation of the Detailed Project Report (DPR) in Puttur Taluk of Dakshina Kannada District.	KSRLPS/2025-26/ SE0043
7	Preparation of the Detailed Project Report (DPR) in Sulya Taluk of Dakshina Kannada District.	KSRLPS/2025-26/ SE0044
8	Preparation of the Detailed Project Report (DPR) in Davanagere Taluk of Davanagere District.	KSRLPS/2025-26/ SE0045
9	Preparation of the Detailed Project Report (DPR) in Gangavathi Taluk of Koppal District.	KSRLPS/2025-26/ SE0046
10	Preparation of the Detailed Project Report (DPR) in Srirangapatna Taluk of Mysore District.	KSRLPS/2025-26/ SE0047
11	Preparation of the Detailed Project Report (DPR) in Sagar Taluk of Shivamogga District.	KSRLPS/2025-26/ SE0048
12	Preparation of the Detailed Project Report (DPR) in Honnavar Taluk of Uttar Kannad District.	KSRLPS/2025-26/ SE0049

Sd/-
Additional Mission Director
Sanjeevini-KSRLPS
Bangalore.

DIPR/CP/4371/AKAR/2025-26

PONDICHERRY MUNICIPALITY
PUDUCHERRY

No.11/PM/EE/DB/2025-26 Dated: 11.12.2025

PRESS NOTICE FOR 'e' TENDER

On behalf of the Pondicherry Municipal Council, e-Tenders are invited from the eligible contractors / firms by the Commissioner, Pondicherry Municipality, Puducherry for **1 Number of work** being executed under the Scheme of Challenge Based Destination Development (CBDD) as mentioned in the tender notice which can be downloaded from the website **www.pudutenders.gov.in**, only by those contractors who are having valid i-key and Digital Signature Certificate. The detailed procedure is available in the said tender notice.

i. Availability of NIT from 11.30 A.M. on 12. 12 .2025 to 4.00 P.M on 02.01.2026

Closing time for submission of e-tender at 4.00 P.M on the same day of last date of availability of NIT.

ii. Pre-bid meeting : 19.12.2025 at 4.00 P.M.

iii. Date & Time of opening of tender : 02.01.2026 at 4.30 P.M.

Please contact ICICI Bank for e- payment helpdesk guidance in Phone No. 8939202113.

Please contact e-procurement cell, 3rd floor, Chief Secretariat, e-tender help desk for guidance in phone No.0413-2220225 & 1800 3070 2232 (Toll free) mail id : **support-eproc.pon.nic.in**

No.625/DIP/AD(Press)/2025-2026 **COMMISSIONER**

KARNATAKA HOUSING BOARD
3rd Floor, Cauvery Bhavan, K.G. Road, Bengaluru - 560009.

Tender Notification
(Through Karnataka Public Procurement Portal only)

Karnataka Housing Board invite tenders through Karnataka public procurement portal for below mentioned works.

Last date for submission of bid: 26.12.2025 upto 4.00 PM

Sl.No.	Name of the work
1	Construction of ladies lounge and restroom for Government First Grade Womens College at Chikkaballapura district 2024-25. **Work Indent No:** KHB/2025-26/BD/work_indent 671 & IFT No: 119/2025-26 Date: 11.12.2025 **Amount put to tender :** Rs.75,99,897/-
2	Construction of Women's Lounge for Government First Grade Women's College at Davanagere in Davanagere District 2024-25. **Work Indent No:** KHB/2025-26/BD/work_indent 672 & IFT No: 120/2025-26 Date: 11.12.2025. **Amount put to tender :** Rs.62,91,433/-
3	Construction of Women's Lounge for Government First Grade Women's College at Pavagada, Tumkur District 2024-25. **Work Indent No:** KHB/2025-26/BD/work_indent 673 & IFT No: 121 /2025-26 Date: 11.12.2025. **Amount put to tender :** Rs. 75,89,870/-
4	Construction of Women's Lounge for Government First Grade Women's College at Mandya in Mandya District 2024-25. **Work Indent No:** KHB/2025-26/BD/work_indent 674 & IFT No: 122/2025-26 Date: 11.12.2025. **Amount put to tender :** Rs.75,99,755/-.

For further information, contact below mentioned office address: Executive Engineer, Karnataka Housing Board, Cauvery Bhavan, Bengaluru. Telephone No: 080-22273511/080-22100077, Website: **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**

DIPR/CP/4382/AKAR/2025-26 **Sd/- Executive Engineer, Karnataka Housing Board, Bengaluru**

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
OFFICE OF THE ADDITIONAL CHIEF ENGINEER,
SALAPADA IRRIGATION CIRCLE, SALAPADA, KEONJHAR
E-mail- acesicsalapada@gmail.com

'e' PROCUREMENT NOTICE No. ACESIC-03/2025-26

1	Nature of the Works	:	River Embankment & Canal Road
2	No of works	:	5 (Five)
3	Value of Works (Excluding GST)	:	Rs.215.25 lakh to 467.80 lakh
4	Class of Contractors	:	A & B
5	Procurement Officer	:	Additional Chief Engineer, Salapada Irrigation Circle, Salapada, Keonjhar-758020
6	Availability of tender for On-line bidding	:	From 11.00 hrs of 15.12.2025 to 30.12.2025 up to 17.00 hrs
7	Date and time of opening of Technical Bid	:	31.12.2025 at 11.00 hrs
8	Date and time of Opening of Financial Bid	:	After evaluation of Technical Bid

Further details conditions can be seen from the Govt. web site **www.tendersorissa.gov.in**

Additional Chief Engineer,
Salapada Irrigation Circle, Salapada.

A-1107 OIPR-32468/11/0011/2526

BANGALORE WATER SUPPLY AND SEWERAGE BOARD

INVITATION FOR TENDER (Only through KPP portal)

BWSSB invites TENDERS from registered agencies for the following works.

Office of the Chief Engineer (Waste Water Management-West), 6th Floor, Cauvery Bhavan, K.G. Road, Bangalore-09

Sl. No.	Name of the Works	Amount put to Tender / EMD Amount
IFT No.: BWSSB/CE(WWM-W)/ACE(WWM-V.V-W)/DCE(WWM-E&W)/TA-2/1719/2025-26 Date: 09-12-2025		
1	Work of Construction of RCC Retaining wall at Northern side of 150 MLD STP V.Valley, Nayandahalli.	Rs. 108.76 Lakh / Rs. 2.00 Lakh
IFT No.: BWSSB/CE(WWM-W)/ACE(WWM-V.V-W)/DCE(WWM-E&W)/TA-2/1717/2025-26 Date: 09-12-2025		
2	Work of Construction of RCC Retaining wall along the valley and precast slab interlocking type compound wall in vacant land at Sy.No. 33 in 60 MLD STP Kengeri.	Rs. 368.40 Lakh / Rs. 5.53 Lakh
IFT No.: BWSSB/CE(WWM-W)/ACE(WWM-V.V-W)/DCE(WWM-E&W)/TA-2/1721/2025-26 Date: 09-12-2025		
3	Work of P&L of 600/450/300 mm dia RCC pipeline from 4th main, 5th D cross, Indira Colony, Chandra Layout to Deepanjalinagar Lake.	Rs. 314.25 Lakh / Rs. 4.71 Lakh
IFT No.: BWSSB/CE(WWM-W)/ACE(WWM-V.V-W)/DCE(WWM-E&W)/TA-2/1723/2025-26 Date: 09-12-2025		
4	Work of Providing & laying of 400-1000mm dia sewer lines at missing bits of S4A in various locations of Kethamaranahalli.	Rs. 398.50 Lakh / Rs. 5.98 Lakh

The Last date and time for receipt of completed tenders will be on **26-12-2025 upto 17:30 hrs.** The bids opening is on **29-12-2025 at 11:00 hrs.**

Sd/-
Chief Engineer (WWM-West)

Office of the Chief Engineer (East), 6th Floor, Cauvery Bhavan, K.G. Road, Bangalore-09

Sl. No.	Name of the Work	Amount put to Tender / EMD Amount
IFT No.: BWSSB/CE(E)/ACE(E)-1/DCE(M)-I/TA(E)/5690/2025-26 Date: 11-12-2025		
5	Work of providing, laying 450mm dia MS pipeline from Yamlur Junction main road to facilitate water supply to M/s Divyashree Infrastructure Private Limited coming under Marathahalli S/s of AEE (SE-2) Sub-division.	Rs. 125.50 Lakh / Rs. 1,88,500/-

The Last date and time for receipt of completed tenders will be on **27-12-2025 upto 16:00 hrs.** The bids opening is on **29-12-2025 after 16:00 hrs.**

Sd/-
Chief Engineer (East)

The details regarding the tender and participation in the e-Procurement portal process can be obtained by logging on to **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** For further details contact the above signed office during working hours.

DIPR/CP/YC/4389/2025-26

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